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HINTS ON COUNTRY HOUSES.

Number Eight.

A PLEA FOR STONE HOUSES.

In a former number of the *FARMER* we briefly suggested a more general use of stone in the construction of country houses, and remarked, that in point of economy, wherever stone could be had in the vicinity, it would be found in the end much cheaper than wood. We not only adhere to this opinion now, but are confident that the cost of building in stone, when the present high price of lumber is taken into consideration, will prove actually much less than that of wood, even at the outset. We propose to speak more at large upon this question, because we believe it to be an important one. Houses built of wood, in a newly settled country abounding in forests of the finest timber, were a necessity. The materials for the structure were in the immediate vicinity of the site which was selected for the proposed dwelling, and the axe and the saw speedily rendered them available. For the cabins, and humbler sort of houses, hewn logs were used, and for the better class of dwellings, clapboard.

This was all very well in the earlier settlement of the country, and may still be regarded as the proper mode of building in those states and territories where there is an abundance of land yet covered with primitive forests which it is the intention of the settler to bring under cultivation. But in the older States this transition period has long since passed, and the adherence to dwellings constructed of wood, in the midst of skilled labour, and of more durable materials, is no longer either advisable or desirable. Wherever the population has acquired a settled aspect, and social relations are permanently established; wherever there are facilities for every variety of handicraft and the means and appliances for building sturdily and well—in all such places wooden buildings should be superseded by stone or brick; but in the country, stone is not only the best material, but is, as a rule, the most available.—

Buildings of wood are but temporary structures, at the best. To look well they constantly require to be painted and kept in repair, and although they may serve the purpose of the owner, for the time being, and may last, perhaps, with care, the uses of one generation, they are, nevertheless, but makeshifts after all, and are, for the most part, unsuited to our climate. Our own experience, and it coincides with that of all others who have lived for any length of time in the country is, that wooden houses—unless filled in with brick, which rarely happens—are hot in summer and cold in winter; and that by shrinkage and warpage they subject the inmates to draughts which produce, in the delicate, serious illness, and in the hardy, often lays the foundation of rheumatic complaints, that are rarely, if ever gotten rid of. These ills may, however, be avoided with care, and our primary objection to houses built of wood is, that they are ill adapted to the exigencies of our climate; that during the heated term they are ovens at mid-day, though cooling off somewhat at night; and that during the winter solstice, they admit so much of the cold that prevails without, as to require an enormous amount of fuel to keep the living rooms even moderately warm. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that the brick dwellings of a town, on a hot midsummers day, are many degrees cooler than wooden dwellings in the country, the difference in favor of the latter being they are cooler of nights, from the fact that they are not subjected at that time, as are the brick houses of towns, to the debilitating influences of the reflected heat. In winter the brick town house is much warmer, naturally, and can be kept warm much more easily than the wooden country house; first, because by close neighborhood with other houses, it is better protected from searching winds; but more than all, by reason of the solidier material with which it is built, and the greater care which is taken to put it together. The question then is as to whether country houses can be built, so as to be as cool in summer and as warm in winter as town houses, and we assert that they can. The means of

doing it too are on every man's premises, be he rich or poor, and it only needs a trial to prove the fact. When stone cannot be obtained, clay underlies the surface soil of nearly all the Middle States, and when converted into bricks or sun dried into blocks stuccoed over or rough cast, forms a strong and durable wall, which will resist alike either heat or cold. But stone wherever it is convenient, is decidedly the best material of all. Assuming then that the structure is to be built of stone—if built of bricks or sun dried clay the same suggestions will apply—the walls below the surface of the ground should be laid either in cement, which is best, or in strong mortar, which will answer, to the height of a foot above the ground, where a layer of slate should be interposed to prevent the ascent of moisture by capillary attraction. The upper walls, instead of being but eighteen inches thick, should be at least two feet, and this thickness should be maintained throughout,—we are speaking, of course, of stone, not brick, although the latter should not be of less thickness than sixteen inches. In building up the walls we would introduce one important change. For our climate our windows are too large and too many. The multiplicity of panes of glass draw the heat in the summer, as in a hot bed, and present but a thin film of obstruction to the entrance of the winter's cold. These then, should be smaller, as they invariably are in hot countries elsewhere.—It should, moreover, be borne in mind that these smaller windows which keep out the heat in summer are equally serviceable in winter, in shutting out the cold, and such windows, with thick solid walls, are what are demanded by our contrasts of climate. They are applicable to the two-fold conditions of coolness in summer and warmth in winter; and in respect to the cost of building in stone as contrasted with wood—apart from the difference of permanency in the two structures—the stone, at the present advanced rates of labor, will be found considerably the cheapest. Every body knows that it is, by all odds, the most enduring.

WHAT IS HEAT LIGHTNING?—The flashes of lightning, often observed on a summer evening, unaccompanied by thunder, and popularly known as "heat lightning," are merely the light from discharges of electricity from an ordinary thunder cloud beneath the horizon of the observer, reflected from clouds, or perhaps from the air itself, as in the case of twilight. Professor Henry says that Mr. Brooks, one of the directors of the telegraph line between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, on one occasion to satisfy himself on this point, asked for information from a distant operator during the appearance of flashes of this kind in the distant horizon, and learned that they proceeded from a thunder storm then raging two hundred and fifty miles eastward of his place of observation.

ELEMENTS OF LANDSCAPE GARDENING.

Number Eight.

OVER PLANTING.

There is an error into which amateur improvers almost invariably fall, that is very apt to spoil all their ingenious plans in the course of a few years if it is not properly corrected. That error consists in over planting. By this term we define that excessive crowding of trees and shrubs, with the design of giving a clothed aspect to the place at once, and in entire forgetfulness of the fact that as soon as the trees begin to extend their branches, they will under such circumstances interlock with each other, and thus materially injure their respective growths. In laying out the plan for the decoration of a lawn or any larger surface to be improved by planting, it is absolutely essential that a due regard should be had to the future growth of the trees, and that the proper space should be allowed for them to grow in.—The force of this truth must be apparent to every one, and will be at once conceded. Nevertheless, we have met with very few of our rural improvers who have not failed to observe the axiom and to profit by it, in their laudable efforts at landscape gardening. And here we would remark, that a design which looks upon paper very pretty and very proper, not unfrequently disappoints the designer when carried out in practice on the soil. It often happens that the plan so patiently elaborated, is in reality as judiciously laid out in all its parts as one could desire that it should be. The masses are properly disposed, the groups are well arranged, the openings or vistas direct the eye to the finest points in the view, or to the remotest boundaries of the domain and beyond; and yet, with all this perfection of detail, the trees that are planted in apparent accordance with every requirement of the place, down to the minutest particular, present, in the course of a few years, a confused and incoherent mass of stems and foliage, with scarcely any vestige of the original arrangement perceptible. The wise disposition of the trees and shrubs, as exhibited on paper, has been frittered away by overcrowding; and instead of the well regulated plan of a landscape in miniature, with all the finest natural points preserved and heightened, we have a jungle in which nothing can be traced, and which shuts out what was intended should be developed, and discloses what was intended should be hidden. This is, however, an extreme view of the system of over-crowding. In its milder aspect, it simply breeds confusion, and breaks up that harmonious combination which the trees and shrubs, in the aggregate, were designed to form. But this is not the worst error of injudicious planting. The trees themselves lose by over-crowding their natural beauty and symmetry, and grow up spindling and

scant of foliage. Instead of branching off at a moderate height above the browsing line, they become tall shafts, seeking space to spread their foliage, but finding none; and so, like the trees in close woodland, their distinctive characteristics are lost in the mass of their fellows. It is true that whilst they are young, and their branches have free play, they look well, and the improver is satisfied. This error, unfortunately, is not apparent until after they have attained several years of growth, and their having waited so long for shade and foliage, and gotten it at last, he has not nerve enough to thin out what he has taken such pains to plant. Yet that very act of thinning out would not only benefit the remaining trees by giving them the requisite space to grow in and to extend their branches, but it would bring regularity out of confusion, and vindicate the merits of the plan of improvement, as it was laid down upon paper before a single tree was planted.

It is difficult to lay down any exact rule which might serve as a guide to correct this common error on the part of those who undertake to improve their own grounds, and the irregularity in which a part of the proper arrangement of grouping consists, renders the difficulty almost insurmountable. If we say, do not plant trees that attain to a large size at a less distance than thirty feet apart, our advice would be correct enough, as far as it goes; but to act upon such advice, as an invariable rule, would be falling into one error in avoiding another. It would only be substituting monotony for entanglement. What then can we say? This and this only—study well the habits of the trees you intend to plant, and in planting remember that all trees on attaining their growth, occupy with their branches a certain space, and give them that space to grow in; subject only to the exception that in imitating nature in some of its most picturesque features, you may occasionally desire, designedly, and with a view to effect, to crowd trees at some particular points, whilst you are equally desirous of leaving them free to follow untrammelled their particular forms of growth at other points.

WHEY IN MAKING CHEESE.—The rennet must have acid to aid coagulation. If the milk does not contain the acid (and new milk does not,) then it must be added. Whey will answer for this purpose. It is used in early spring when the temperature is low, so that the milk changes but little from the purely sweet state. A little whey kept on hand; kept till somewhat more acid than fresh whey; mixed, say 1 quart of whey to a hundred or a hundred and twenty of milk. This will make the cheese solid as in summer. Pure, sweet milk, without acid, will make it soft, and just the thing that we find it in early spring. The great majority of our cheese-makers are not aware what is the difficulty. A little whey added will avoid all this.

Our Agricultural Calendar

Farm Work for August.

We again urge upon our friends, in view of the great scarcity of labouring hands, the manifest propriety of contracting the area of cultivation, but at the same time making the land brought under cultivation as rich as possible. The great error of our farmers and planters generally, we respectfully submit, has always been the ambition to compensate for the gradual impoverishment of their soils by increasing the number of acres cultivated. It must be evident to all, for it is the experience of all, that the main cost of growing crops for a market lies in the labour expended upon them—and at the existing rates for field hands, this is enormous. We question, for instance, whether under the old system of planting, the wheat crop of the Middle States will average more than ten bushels to the acre. Now, if we can grow twenty bushels to the acre, upon half the quantity of land, we economise to the extent of the lesser labour required, whilst we correspondingly enrich the land by concentrating upon, for example, ten acres, the amount of manure that was formerly spread over twenty. Will our friends think of this and act upon the suggestion?

FALL TURNIPS.

We have constantly advocated the cultivation of turnips, both the White and the Swedish, for the use of stock in the winter. The Swedish is of course the best for this purpose, but the season is now too far advanced for seeding it, with the hope of obtaining a remunerative crop. We may add, likewise, that the great drought which prevailed during the whole of the month of July must necessarily have had a serious effect upon its growth, wherever it has been planted. There is still, however, some compensation to be found in planting heavier crops of the White Turnip, and this should be done during the first week in August, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Analysis of the Turnip.—The inorganic elements contained in the ash of the turnip may be best understood by the following table. The proportion is a thousand parts.

	Roots.	Leaves.
Potash, - - - - -	23.85	33.3
Soda, - - - - -	10.48	22.2
Lime, - - - - -	7.52	52.0
Magnesia, - - - - -	2.54	05.9
Alumina, (clay) - - - - -	0.35	00.3
Oxide of Iron, - - - - -	0.32	01.7
Silica, - - - - -	3.68	12.8
Sulphuric Acid,	8.01	25.2
Phosphoric Acid, - - - - -	3.67	9.8
Chlorine, . - - - -	2.39	8.7

It will thus be seen that the chief constituents of

the turnip consist of potash, lime, soda and sulphuric acid, and all of these must be present in the soil in adequate quantities to grow the turnip to a profit—wherever therefore, the land requires enriching, either of the following formulas will suffice for an acre.

No. 1.—Twenty two-horse loads of barn or stable manure, 10 bushels of wood ashes, 2 bushels of salt, and 1 bushel of plaster.

No. 2.—5 bushels finely comminuted bone dust, 100 lbs. of Peruvian Guano, 5 bushels of unleached wood ashes, 2 bushels of salt, 1 bushel of plaster.

No. 3.—A compost formed of 5 2-horse loads each of stable and cow manure, 5 bushels wood ashes, 2 bushels of refuse salt, 1 bushel of plaster, 100 lbs. phosphate of lime.

No. 4.—250 lbs. of Manipulated Guano, 5 bushels of ashes, 2 bushels of refuse salt, and 1 bushel of plaster.

Preparation of the Land.—The soil must be well and deeply ploughed, thoroughly harrowed, and rendered as clean and loose as it is possible to make it.

Seeding.—If sown broadcast the manure should be partly ploughed in and partly scattered over the surface. The land should be again thoroughly harrowed, and not until this is done should seeding commence. Now seed and bush in and follow immediately with the roller.

A much better plan, however is, to spread over the land before ploughing about one-half of the manure, and then open drills from two feet eight inches to 3 feet apart, as if for potatoes, and scatter the remainder of the manure along the drills.—Ridge up with two bouts of the plough, flatten down the crown of the ridges with the roller, seed in drills half an inch deep along the centre of the flattened ridge, and cover with the back of a rake.

Quantity of Seed to the Acre.—1 lb. of seed to the acre may be regarded as the proper quantity to be used, but it is advisable to sow half a pound in addition, to provide against the ravages of the fly.—The *after culture* is described in the July number of THE FARMER, but we may say briefly here that it consists, first of all, in dusting the young plants of a morning whilst the dew is on them, and until they come into the rough leaf, with a mixture composed of equal parts of ashes, soot and salt; as a protection against the ravages of the fly; and lastly, in keeping the soil light and loose, and entirely free of weeds.

CULTIVATION OF RYE.

As to Soil.—Alluvial bottom lands and deep rich sandy loams are the soils which are best adapted to the vigorous growth of rye; but whatever the soil upon which this cereal is grown it must be light and loose, and not wet. Rye will not flourish on a

clay soil unless it was broken up the previous fall and subjected to the action of the frost of winter.—Even then it is apt to become too compact and can never be recommended wherever the choice lies between it and a lighter soil.

The constituents of the Rye plant, as indicated by an analysis of the ash of the plant, show that for each acre of rye that matures, there is removed from the soil as follows—

In the Grain—0.64 lbs. of silica—8.80 lbs. of phosphoric acid—1.39 lbs. of sulphuric acid—0.79 lbs. of lime—2.12 lbs. magnesia—4.94 lbs. potash—1.50 lbs. of soda.

In the Straw—103.36 lbs. silica—6.42 lbs. phosphoric acid—15.22 lbs. lime—4.05 lbs. magnesia—2.31 lbs. peroxide of iron—28.87 lbs. potash—0.93 lbs. chloride of lime—0.45 lbs. chloride potassium.

Manures for an Acre of Rye.—Either of the following formulas will be found sufficient, both in quantity and quality, to produce on poor soils a profitable crop of rye.

No. 1.—10 loads of woods mould—5 2-horse loads of stable or barn yard manure—5 bushels of unleached wood ashes—formed into a compost and suffered to remain for two weeks, in bulk, then shovelled over, completely mixed, scattered broadcast on the land, and ploughed under.

No. 2.—10 two-horse cart loads of woods mould or marsh mud, mixed with 150 lbs. of guano, 1 bushel of plaster, and 10 bushels of leached wood ashes—broadcast and ploughed under.

No. 3.—5 bushels of bone dust, moistened, 10 bushels of leached ashes, 1 bushel of plaster, 2 bushels of refuse salt. Mix these well together; let them lie in bulk, to ferment, for two weeks; scatter the mixture over the ploughed soil, as a top dressing, and harrow it well in.

No. 4.—From 200 to 250 lbs. of manipulated guano, 10 bushels of leached ashes, 1 bushel of plaster, and 1 bushel of refuse salt; top-dress and harrow well in.

Preparation of the Soil.—Deep ploughing and complete pulverization of the soil are absolutely essential to the preparation of the ground for rye.

Quantity of Seed per Acre.—Sow from 4 to 6 pecks per acre, of the best seed rye. The larger quantity on soil in good condition will not be found too much.

SETTING A TIMOTHY MEADOW.

It is essential in setting a meadow to timothy, that the soil should be entirely free of weeds, and to effect this in the best manner we know nothing, with the exception of a summer fallow, so admirable as a preceding crop of early potatoes, heavily manured and cultivated in the best possible manner. After taking off the potatoes, plough thoroughly, broadcast over the soil 5 bushels of ground bones and twenty bushels of leached ashes to each acre, and

harrow these well in. Now seed to timothy at the rate of 1 peck to a peck and a half to the acre, and either lightly harrow or bush in. Complete the process by following with the roller.

MEADOW AND PASTURE.

Wherever permanent pasture is required, the soil should be made very rich and the land should be deeply ploughed. If subsoiled to retain the moisture during periods of drought, so much the better. In other respects, the preparation demanded does not at all differ from that recommended for timothy, but the grass seeds for pasture should be of mixed kinds, and the quality seeded should be heavier.—We suggest the following seeds and proportions.

Quantities and kind of Seed.—To each acre sow—1 bushel of Orchard grass seed— $\frac{1}{2}$ peck of Kentucky Blue grass— $\frac{1}{2}$ peck of Red Top— $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of Perennial Rye grass—1 bushel Meadow Oat grass—3 lbs. Sweet scented Vernal grass. Moisten all the seeds that are in the chaff before sowing, leave them in bulk for a day, then mix with wood ashes, and scw the whole of the seeds broadcast—follow with a light harrow and finish off with the roller.

As a Top Dressing every Second Year.—Mix together for each acre in pasture, 2 bushels of bone dust, 10 bushels of wood ashes, 1 bushel of refuse salt, and 1 bushel of plaster. Spread broadcast, harrow and cross-harrow, and finish off by rolling the land. The advantages of this process are obvious—it loosens the soil; it partially restores the constituents taken off by the stock; and it separates the grasses and causes them to tiller more freely.

FALL POTATOES.

Keep them free of weeds. Loosen the soil along the ridges, and run the cultivator or the shovel plough along the intervals.

GRANARIES.

See that these are cleansed and white-washed before storing away the grain.

POULTRY HOUSES.

Keep these clean and pure. Change the nests frequently, placing tobacco stems and wood ashes at the bottom of the boxes. Sprinkle sand on the floor below the roots, and every week take it away with the droppings and renew with clean sand.

SHEEP.

Treat these as advised last month.

LATE CORN.

A great deal of the corn planted this year is backward. In all such keep the cultivators and shovel ploughs going, and do not lay the corn permanently by until it comes fairly into tassel. The great secret in raising good crops of corn on soils moderately rich lies in frequent stirring of the soil, so as to keep it loose and open to the air and the dew and the rain.

MATERIALS FOR MANURE.

Collect these at all available times wherever they may be found. Cart them to the barn-yard or to the field—marsh mud, wood mould, refuse straw—turf, leaves, weeds. Everything, in point of fact, that contains vegetable fibre and the constituents proper to the growth of crops. One load of good barn-yard manure to three loads of compost stuff is the proper proportion in forming a compost heap.

Garden Work for August.

We have very few remarks to make in regard to garden operations during this month, for the planting season is nearly over, and what is now put in the ground is, for the most part, to make up for deficiencies in the earlier plantings and for successions. We state the work yet to be done as follows:—

Setting out Cabbage Plants.—Wherever plants are yet to be set out, seize the opportunity of the first rain, and push them forward by heavy manuring as rapidly as possible. Water frequently of an evening in seasons of droughts.

Spinach.—During the first half of this month prepare a bed, make the soil very rich, and drill in some rows of spinach seed, for use in September and October.

Spinach for Spring Use.—Towards the close of the month prepare a bed in a warm and dry situation, and after manuring it with the richest and best rotted barn-yard manure, sow spinach seed of the prickly varieties for spring consumption.

Radish Seed.—Sow radish seed of the summer varieties during the first ten days of the month.

Asparagus Beds.—Keep these free of weeds, and loosen the soil about the dry stems of the plants.—Give the bed a top dressing of refuse salt.

Turnips.—Sow a bed of these. For the mode of cultivation see Farm work.

Celery.—Set out celery plants for a late crop, and continue to earth up those already set out. Choose wet weather for planting and dry for earthing up. In earthing, take particular care that the soil does not cover up the hearts of the plants.

Small Salading.—Sow small quantities of small salading at intervals of a week in succession.

Peas.—Peas may still be drilled in, but they rarely produce well. If seeded, choose a shady border.—Soak the peas before planting, and water the rows frequently of an evening during the prevalence of dry weather.

Lettuce.—Sow lettuce seed up to the 10th of the month.

Endives.—Tie up the endive plants to bleach, as soon as they are large enough.

Beans.—A few rows of kidney beans may be

seeded during the early part of the month. They must however, be soaked before planting, and should be kept well and constantly watered afterwards.

Melons and Canteleupes.—Keep these free of weeds; water them in dry weather and be careful not to injure the vines.

Herbs.—All kinds of herbs should now be saved for winter and spring use. Dry them in a shady place, and tie them up in paper bags. When this is done keep them in an airy room until wanted.

Corn Salad.—Sow seeds of these; and when the plants are well up, thin them out so as to stand three inches apart from each other.

Cabbages.—Keep these clean—hoe them frequently at regular intervals and water copiously in dry weather.

Poisoning and Death from the Use of Glazed Milk Pots.

The extensive use of red pottery, which is thickly glazed with red lead, has, I am sure, been productive of more misery than is generally supposed; and I feel it my duty to present to the public the following facts evolved during recent investigations into a subtle case of poisoning:

As lead is cumulative in its action and varied in its effects, the physician may easily neglect certain points diagnosis which indicate its presence, and thus it may remain in the body to produce acute poisoning or even death.

Thus a gentleman in Baltimore county recently lost two little children from lead poisoning, and his brother is not expected to survive its effects. The death of the children and the mysterious illness of his brother caused him to bring me, with other food, which I analyzed, some apple-butter contained in a glazed, red milk-pot, in which it had been kept since its manufacture. After a protracted analysis I extracted lead in the proportion of twenty-six and a half grains of the metal in one pound of the apple-butter—and this result clearly explained the cause of the death of the children and of the illness of the gentleman.

The evidence I here present is important, and legislation should be made prohibiting the use of lead in glazing pottery: for should *acid*, *alkaline*, or even *fatty* matters come in contact with the glaze it will dissolve it off; and if not in sufficient quantity to produce acute symptoms or death, it will, at least, seriously impair health, while the cause of suffering may remain unknown to the physician.

Cases of lead poisoning from the glazing would be more frequent were it not that certain vegetable principles, *e.g.*: albumen, casein and tannin form insoluble compounds with oxide of lead.

To show that lead glaze is dissolved by fatty sub-

stances I refer to the London *Lancet*, July 4, 1846, p. 27, where we find that the whole of the members of a family where poisoned by the eating of fat meat baked in a lead glazed vessel.

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Professor of Chemistry in the Maryland College of Pharmacy, and in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.—*Baltimore Daily Gazette.*

Drill and Broadcast Sowing of Wheat.

In the Department of Agricultural Report for April and May, the two practices of sowing wheat are spoken of as follows:

"There is a marked difference in loss by freezing between the drilled and broadcast sown. The cause of the injury varied in different localities; in many it was by upheaval, in others the roots were killed by exposure to intense cold without any protection, and in others by being covered with water, which froze so intensely as to destroy the roots of the wheat. The most marked difference in favor of drill sowing was in the first of these causes. But these returns so connect themselves with the information communicated by letter, that we reserve further comment until the next report."

Of this the Commissioner in his introductory remarks says: "With the fact before him that drill-sown wheat is much less injured than broadcast, how can any farmer reconcile it with his interest to continue broadcast, because he may have good crops by that method when there is no freezing out?"

THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR.—One of the most curious and interesting of the recent discoveries of science is, that it is to the presence of a very small proportion of watery vapor in our atmosphere—less than one half of one per cent—that much of the beneficent effect of heat is due. The rays of heat sent forth from the earth after it has been warmed by the sun would soon be lost in space, but for the wonderful absorbent properties of these molecules of aqueous vapor, which act with many thousand times the power of the atoms of oxygen and nitrogen, of which the air is composed. By this means the heat, instead of being transmitted into infinitude as fast as produced, is stopped or dammed up and held back on its rapid course, to furnish the necessary conditions of life and growth. Let this moisture be taken from the air but for a single summer night, and the sun would rise next morning upon a "world held fast in the iron grip of frost." But the power of absorption and of radiation in the same body are always equal, so that at length it is poured forth into space; else our atmosphere would become a vast reservoir of fire, and all organic life be burned up.

TO IMPROVE SANDY SOILS.

There is a very erroneous but strong impression on some minds, that light, loose sands are valueless for purposes of cultivation. In their natural state, it is true, they are not very productive; a few crops of rye or buckwheat reduces their fertility, and so much manure is thenceforth requisite to reinvigorate and keep them in heart that they are either turned out to pasture or abandoned in despair. I have had some experience in the cultivation of this species of soil, and my success has induced me to attach to it to them a much higher degree of importance than is usually accorded. And I am fully persuaded that even the lightest and most sterile sands, may, by proper management, and without any ruinous outlay of expense, either in time or capital, be made highly and permanently productive; in short, that our poorest plains land can be redeemed from this unjust imputation of utter worthlessness, and made to yield, not only remunerating crops, but crops equaling in abundance and richness those afforded by the most affluent soils upon which labor has ever been bestowed.

In the first place, in order to the successful amelioration of sandy soils, it will be necessary, completely and thoroughly to cleanse them from stumps. After this is effected, let them be ploughed deeply, with a strong team, in the last of summer, turning in all the wild growth upon them to the depth of at least one foot; then harrow thoroughly and roll with as heavy a roller as you can procure. The next thing is to give the surface a good dressing of clay. This earth will generally be found in the near vicinity of the field to be clayed, either in some neighboring run or water course, or beneath the sand, for sand and clay are never far apart. The finer it is, and the more *greasy*, the better and more durable will be its action; and the more liberally it is applied, the more thorough will be the improvement consequent upon its application. The best time for applying it is immediately after plowing, and to secure its being refined and broken up, it should be deposited in heaps, and spread evenly over the surface, to remain exposed during the winter to the action of the frost. In the spring plow again not so deeply as before, in order not to disturb the sward, harrow, and again roll: You can now sow on rye, or plant, and the crop will come off in season to allow you an opportunity to give another dressing of clay, which in quantity should be equal to the first—say forty cords to the acre—and spread as before.

This will entirely change the texture of the soil, and you will no longer have the barrenness of sand to contend with, but a soil endued with all the requisites of permanent and vigorous fertility, and on

which manure will act with as much celerity and energy as upon the richest loams. It may be thought that the quantity of clay recommended—eighty cords to the acre—is large, but when we reflect that some cultivators bestow this amount of stable manure, and bear in mind the very important fact that while manure is an article for which money has to be paid, the whole cost of clay is embraced in the carting, the objection arising from the quantity requisite to insure a complete and thorough improvement being large will at once cease to retain its force. If the farmer cannot afford this, he can apply a less quantity at first, and add to it year by year; but in this case he must be contented with a much less lucrative return for his annual labors, as a very large percentage of clay is called for, in order thoroughly to improve the soil, and overcome the many and serious imperfections of sand as it naturally exists. Therefore it is much better and more in accordance with policy of enlightened economy, to give enough at first to effect that object desired, and enter at once into the profits of the business, than to occupy years with only a limited annual return.

One great reason—and indeed I regard it as the principal one—why manure never acts vigorously on light sands is, that the extreme perosity which characterizes it, causes the dung to keep *dry*, and consequently to remain *inert*. A lump of dry manure is no better in the soil than a chip or a stone, and will produce just the same effects upon the crop. The clay gives cohesiveness to the particles, unites them by a sort of glutinous attachment and consolidation, and while it favors the absorption and retention of moisture, ensures the fermentation and ultimate decomposition of the dung. In a few years the soil will assume a fine dark appearance, resembling that of garden mould, and the various grasses will find in it a bed capable of affording expansion to their roots, and supply a moisture and soluble food commensurable with their wants.

To every person, therefore, who is the possessor of sandy soil, I would say, *clay it at once!* No soil is so easily worked, and from no soil, when managed in this way, will labor secure to itself a more certain and rich reward.—*Cor. Ger. Telegraph.*

NEVER AGAIN.

Never, oh, never again!

Never to meet!

Longing, and ever in vain,

For thy pattering feet,

And the musical strain

Of thy laughter sweet.

My child, beloved, mine own!

Gone in the night,

Gone like a dream that is flown,

A dream of delight;

Too fair to be known

In life and light.

ONE HUNDRED BUSHELS OF CORN PER ACRE.

We have had occasion to examine a great many good corn-fields in different years, and the practice adopted in obtaining the crops. We are satisfied that those good farmers who raise from sixty to eighty bushels of shelled corn per acre, (and there are many such,) do not get enough, or so much as they might under the best management. We allude, of course, to those regions of country whose strong, warm and fertile soils are well adapted to this crop. By the following mode of management we are satisfied that one hundred bushels per acre, as an average, might be obtained in many places:

First, procure the best seed and keep it so by constantly selecting the finest ears from the best stalks. If a small variety, it must be planted thicker than for a large one—that is, the number of stalks on an acre must correspond with the character of the variety. We have known many instances where a small early sort has been rejected as worthless, because it was planted too thin—and, on the other hand, some large sorts have succeeded imperfectly by being planted too densely.

Second, the soil. It is premised that this is sufficiently drained to become warmed early in the season and to admit of free and friable working. We will suppose that it is pasture. Spread broadcast during the autumn all the coarse and other manure that can be obtained, enough to give it some thirty or forty loads per acre; but, if sufficient cannot be had, complete the amount by drawing out and spreading during winter fresh manure from the stable as fast as it accumulates. The rains and melting snows which occur by the approach of warm weather the following spring, will dissolve the best parts of the manure, and carry them down along the grass roots, depositing them in the soil in a more complete degree of intermixture with its particles than could ever be accomplished by the use of the finest harrow.

Third. In the spring a short time before planting, invert the sod to a moderate depth, and pulverize its upper surface by means of a Share's Harrow, which prevents the sod from being torn up, at the same time that the mellowing process is twice as deep as with a common harrow. Before using this harrow, unless the soil has already been made very rich, spread over the surface of the inverted sod about ten loads per acre of short or old manure or compost. The harrow will work it well in, and it will not only accelerate the growth of the young plants, but tend to keep the top-soil mellow and prevent crusting. Drop a handful of fine manure in each hill at planting.

Fourth, plant the corn. If planted in drills, (everything else being well done,) the crop will be one-third to one-fourth greater than if planted in

in hills forming rows each way, because the stalks will be more evenly distributed, which always contributes to the largest crop. A good drill corn-planter will do this work rapidly, and so straight that the cultivator may be run very close to the rows; and if the land has been kept clean, but little hand-hoeing will be necessary. Next to drills, the practice of planting in hills close in the row, (as, for instance, by means of Billings' Corn-Planter,) will be found best; and lastly, planting in hills forming rows both ways, although the latter will not yield so much corn, yet the saving of labor which it will effect on land infested with weeds may more than counterbalance the increased amount of the crop obtained from drills; but, in order that the stalks may be as evenly distributed as possible, the hills should be as near together as practicable to allow the cultivator to pass, and leaving fewer stalks in the hill. If, for example, the distance each way is only three feet apart, four stalks may be enough for small Northern corn, and two stalks for Gourd seed or Dent corn. It is always best to plant plenty of seed, and thin out regularly when necessary. A few years' practice will enable any good farmer to judge the nearest distances that may be allowed, to admit every ear to fill well.

Fifth. Now comes a most important part, namely, the cultivation. Keep the horse passing between the rows every week, from the time that the corn is fairly above the surface until it becomes so large as to close up the rows. Actual experiment has shown that this constant mellowing and breaking of the crust adds several bushels per acre to the crop.

If these directions are faithfully carried out, and the work is all done in the proper season, we shall feel much disappointed if our best farmers, in good corn-growing regions, do not obtain an average of one hundred bushels of shelled corn to the acre; and if they do not find by keeping a careful account that they obtain a greater net profit than when only fifty bushels to the acre are obtained. At least, the experiment is worth trying, and certainly cannot result in any great disaster.—*Country Gentleman*.

HINTS BY ONE WHO KNOWS.—Plants when drooping are revived by a few grains of camphor. Sulphur is valuable in preserving grapes, &c., from insects. In feeding corn sixty pounds ground goes as far as one hundred pounds in the kernel. Corn meal should not be ground very fine, it injures the richness of it. Turnips of small size have double the nutritious matter that large ones have. Rats and other vermin are kept away from grain by sprinkling garlic when packing the sheaves. Money expended in drying lands by draining or otherwise, will be returned with ample interest.

CULTURE OF BUCKWHEAT.

The best soil for buckwheat is a dry, light, sandy loam, but it may be grown on almost any land if properly prepared. As an exterminator of weeds the plant can be employed to a good purpose. The daisy, Canada thistle and quack, (switch grass,) can be destroyed by plowing in mid-summer, and roasting the roots by exposing them to the rays of the hot sun, while the rapid growth of the buckwheat overshadows and smothers out what remains alive of these pests, more especially if the crop be followed by clover or oats.

The following method has been found effectual in cleaning out quack from grounds overrun with this troublesome grass. Plow in the fall and again in the spring, then harrow at intervals of a week or oftener, as the quack grows, up to the middle of June. Sow the buckwheat by the 1st of July, and if the land is not rich use manure, so as to grow a heavy crop of straw; this will smother out the quack. Buckwheat straw, if cut before frost, is very palatable to cattle and sheep, and can be used with advantage during the early season of foddering. Many people throw the straw away or pile it up for manure. This is bad economy, as it can be used, and thereby be a saving to the hay-mow.

When sown for a fertilizer or for fodder, two bushels of seed should be sown to the acre. As a fertilizer it is not so valuable as clover, but has one advantage, inasmuch as it can be grown on land where clover could not be profitably employed for this purpose. It should be turned deep under the soil while the plants are in blossom, and when used in this way rapidly enriches the land. Buckwheat forms a very good "pasturage for bees," and the apiarian can make it worth while to grow the crop for this purpose. The honey made from buckwheat is inferior to that made from clover, yet this is in part compensated by extra quantity and the rapidity by which the stores are gathered. Some years, during the clover season, it is so rainy that bees are unable to gather their supply of honey. A field of buckwheat may then prove the means of saving the swarms through the winter. Last year was a season of this character, and hundreds of swarms were unable to collect enough food for winter; hence there were immense losses of swarms. But we have observed in several instances when buckwheat fields were convenient last season to the apiary, the loss of swarms was less, and in many cases no more than usual. In Europe the plant is extensively grown as food for bees.

Buckwheat requires care in harvesting to prevent loss from shaking of the seeds, more than any other crop. Some writers recommend cutting as soon as one-third the seed are turned brown; others say

two-thirds. If we wait for all to ripen, the earliest and best part of the grain is lost. Perhaps the best plan is to cut when one-half the seed are turned brown; the unripened grain then draws enough nutriment from the straw, which is succulent and juicy, to fill out and mature the grain after it is cut. The most approved method of harvesting is to cut with a cradle, rake the straw into bundles and set up.—It will be often necessary for them to remain in the field for a week or two before they are sufficiently cured. When ready to be carted from the field, the grain should be threshed out immediately, or as soon as may be after the loads reach the barn. The maximum yield of buckwheat is from 40 to 50 bushels per acre; from 25 to 30 bushels is considered a fair crop. The success of buckwheat is affected by the weather to which it is exposed in the several stages of its growth. In this respect it is more susceptible than any other kind of grain. In growing the crop successfully much depends not only on the general state of the weather throughout the season, but also on the particular time which may have been chosen for sowing. A week earlier or later often makes a very great difference, and yet, notwithstanding this uncertainty, the crop, it is believed, all things considered, is one of the most remunerative a farmer can grow.—*Ulrich Herald.*

HILLING INDIAN CORN.

A correspondent of the *Telegraph*, in speaking of the practice of hilling corn, says: "Constructing large, conical hills, on land which is light and dry, must inevitably tend to increase the effects of drouth, inasmuch as it exposes more surface to the atmosphere, and consequently increases ærification at times when all moisture contained in the soil is required for the support and sustenance of the plants. When rain falls, the conical hill conducts the water from the roots to the center space between the rows and hills, very little of the fluid being retained about the plants, or within range of the small roots, by which the *pabulum* is taken up by the growing plants, and without which they would immediately languish and decay. On light soils hilling is always disadvantageous to the crop. Every fresh stratum of earth placed over the roots causes a protrusion of a new set of laterals, to the detriment of those previously formed. This exhausts the energy of the plant, without increasing, in any degree, its powers of appropriating food from the surrounding soil, as the first-formed roots cease to grow as soon as those caused by the deposition of new soil are developed, and in a short time will be found to have lost their vitality and become mere worthless appendages."

Many who are wits in jest, are fools in earnest.

THE ALSIKE CLOVER.

This clover, which is of rather recent discovery or production, has become extremely popular in Europe, being greatly preferred to all other grasses of this family which can be profitably grown. Horses are extremely fond of it, and is said to be more wholesome for them than the best timothy. It is beginning to be grown in our own country, but as yet very sparingly, in consequence of the scarcity of seed. Indeed we do not know whether it can be obtained at all or not at any of our seed stores. It has been referred to before in the columns of the *Telegraph*, and being anxious that it should be better known, we copy the following communication relative to it from the *Maine Farmer*, furnished by a gentleman named Cushman, who resides at Sherman, in that State, and who had been applied to publicly, for his knowledge and opinion of this clover :

"My experience with the Alsike clover is as follows: From the small quantity I sowed, I got enough the first year to seed nearly one-fourth of an acre. It came to maturity the past season, and produced the bulk of a ton of common hay. This clover is a hybrid, or cross between the common red and white. It possesses neither the coarse stalk of the red, nor the running habit of the white. It grows about two feet high, and makes numerous branches and heads. The head is flesh color—about half way between red and white. In two respects it resembles the white clover: First, as the blossoms fade, the bolls turn down, and look like the white. Second, a single boll often contains several seeds—whereas the red never does but one. I think it will produce quite as large a crop as the red, and of much finer and better quality. I think this will be much longer lived than the red. It is valuable to the keeper of honey bees, as I never saw a flower of which they are more fond. The red clover is very sweet, but the cell is so deep the bee cannot reach it. The Alsike possesses the sweetness of the red, and the shoal cell of the white, and therefore seems perfectly adapted to the want of the bee. It was observed that there were more bees on that little spot of clover, than on fifty acres of other grass. I let it stand till most of the heads were turned, and then cut it for both hay and seed. I think I have enough for fifteen acres."

Now, this is a very favourable statement of the characteristics of this clover; and inasmuch as its cultivation is a success in the very cold latitude of Maine, it surely ought to be, especially to a very large expanse of territory farther South and West. Our farmers should experiment with it as soon as seed can be obtained; and the Commissioner of Agriculture, who we think has already distributed some, should procure an additional supply.

Value of Hen Manure.

We saw on the premises of a first-class farmer, the other day, says the *Germantown Telegraph*, a well-constructed hen-house, though not at all complying with the conditions which hen-fanciers would impose. It was designed only for laying and roosting in; and it at first seemed strange to find, at mid-day, with a cool atmosphere, and turkeys and chickens occupying it. They had free egress and ingress, and were not fed or watered in it; yet the chickens always went there to lay.

The secret was revealed, however, when the proprietor informed us that he had it cleaned out every week. All the droppings of the fowls were scraped from the floor, which was an inclined plain, into a trough or receiver, from which they were shoveled and heaped up, and the place whitewashed once-a-week. This required but little over half an hour, and the manure from last season was estimated at one hundred and twenty dollars, and quite sufficient in quantity as an application to his entire crop of corn.

As a rule we do not think farmers pay as much attention to their hen-houses and the manurial product, as their real importance demands. Here was a most valuable amount of fertilizing material, obtained with little labor, upon the premises, ready for use when needed, which would have cost a large sum to provide; beside, from the excellent arrangement of the house, which was by no means expensive, an increase of eggs was obtained which more than covered all the additional expense in labor, &c.

The most Profitable Variety of Potato.

At a meeting of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, Mr. Carpenter gave his experience with Goodrich's potatoes. He said that he had cultivated all four varieties, and he believed that the Cusco-white, with good culture, would yield 300 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Williams said that in 1862 he tried all four varieties in comparison with some of the best old kinds, carefully measured the ground and the crop, and having his note-book with him he could give the results. The ground, manuring and culture were the same in all cases. The rate per acre of the yield was :

Prince Albert.....	86 bushels 6 quarts.
Jersey Mercer.....	91 bushels 12 quarts.
Nova Scotia.....	163 bushels 20 quarts.
Peach-blow.....	114 bushels 3 quarts.
Garner-Chili.....	120 bushels 3 quarts.
Coppermine.....	199 bushels 2 quarts.
Rusty-coat.....	216 bushels 6 quarts.
Cusco.....	240 bushels 7 quarts.

The last four are Goodrich's.

Mr. Williams thought that the Cusco surpassed all the other varieties of potato in the abundance of its yield, and though in quality it was not perhaps quite equal to the Mercer, it brought the same price in the Newark market.

IMPROVEMENT IN FLOUR GRINDING.

One of the great obstacles in the way of grinding flour rapidly in an ordinary mill, arises from the liability to heat. An English inventor, Mr. Bovill, some time ago contrived an air blast which overcomes this difficulty, by keeping a cool current in constant circulation upon and between the millstones; and in a late law-suit against the proprietors of one of the largest steam mills in London, or, indeed, id the world, for infringement of his patent, some facts came out as to the value of the invention that are worthy of note. It was shown in evidence, for example, that in grinding flour, the saving of time was 70 per cent., of coal 51 per cent., and an increase of flour $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the profit on manufacture was £8 17s. 3d., on produce £2 0s. 2d., on 400 bushels of wheat. This saving arises from the following reasons: 1st, speed in grinding, by which double and treble the quantity of wheat may be passed through the stones without danger of heating or "doughing them up," as it is termed; 2d, an increased quantity and improved quality of meal; 3d, immediate facility for dressing the meal without the necessity of being kept a length of time to cool and recover from the fermentation occasioned by its heating; 4th, the preservation of the millstones, which will grind four times the quantity of wheat before it will be necessary to dress them, because being kept constantly cool, they never get clogged by particles of flour in a damp state, and thus are always clear, and have a sharp edge; 5th, freedom from dust, which constantly flies about the mill on the old system, this being by Mr. Bovill's blast and exhaust drawn from the stones and conveyed to the appropriate chamber, where it becomes available, instead of being lost or mixed with the sweepings. For the right of using this invention, the English government have paid Mr. Bovill $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents a bushel on the wheat ground in all her Majesty's dock-yards, until lately, when the rate was reduced to one cent per bushel, in consideration of a very large increase in the amount ground.

Subsoiling and Underdraining.

The *Practical Farmer* in a late number, referring to the "Improvement in Farming," says:

Of all the recent improvements of agriculture, the introduction of subsoiling and underdraining, which is now carried on, on retentive or clay soils, on a scale that will hardly be credited by those not acquainted with the facts, are perhaps the most important. Subsoiling and tile draining are modern improvements.

The introduction of fallows between successive grain crops, was a very great improvement on the

previous practice; but the substitution of green crops for fallows, on all but stiff clay lands, has been one of the greatest of improvements ever made in agriculture, and has, in our mind, effected as great and beneficial a revolution in agriculture, as the steam engine and the spinning jenny have done in manufactures.

It must be borne in mind that half a century ago many of the lands of this country were either left in their wild state, or exhausted of their fertility by constant cropping, and turned into old fields or commons and wastes; and it is this description of lands which has been enclosed, reclaimed, and brought into a highly productive state, by the *new system of husbandry*—the extensive use of clover in rotation, subsoiling, and the underdraining system; and that these improvements have taken place, and by these modes of cultivation the productive capacity of our oldest agricultural districts have nearly doubled, and the value of land much enhanced.

WHERE SHALL WE GET MANURE?

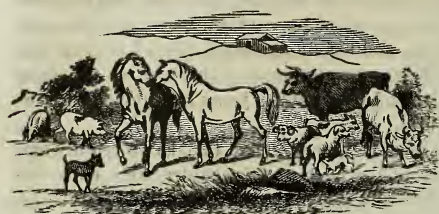
We have printed a great deal on economizing manure. We have urged time and again the necessity of manufacturing manure from many things new either thrown away or which is worse than useless. A writer in the *Boston Cultivator*, from Hampshire county, Mass. writes sensibly in the same vein—a brief extract from which we make:

"Save the fragments, that nothing be lost," conveys a wholesome admonition to manure makers, not less than to persons engaged in the common pursuits of life. I have often thought, that of nothing else are farmers so negligent as in regard to their manurial resources. There are few farmers, relatively, in New England, that do not suffer at least one-half of their manure to run to waste. No wonder after such prodigality, they are led to inquire, 'How shall farmers get manure?'

"Every farmer should have a heap of loam in some convenient place, where it shall not be offensive, neither to the eye nor the sense of smell, where the slops of the house may be poured, and thus make a quantity of valuable compost. My object now is, not so much to suggest how to make manures, as to remind farmers how to save them after they are made. Save the urine of your stock and suffer not the soluble elements of the solid excrements to be washed away by being exposed to drenching rains and eave-droppings."

SUGAR.—Few people comprehend the great amount of sugar used annually in the United States. In 2862 there were 432,411 tons, or 864,822,000 pounds or nearly 29 pounds to each man, woman, and child, estimating the population at 30,000,000.

Live Stock Register.



OXEN vs. HORSES FOR FARMING PURPOSES.

Some experience and considerable observation among the farmers of Canada, lead me to offer a few suggestions on the comparative merits, viewed in various lights, of oxen and horses as working teams for farm purposes. I will, if you please, foreshadow my opinion by a quotation from the book of all books, and from the wisest of all the wise men of old—"Where the ox is there is increase in the stall." That oxen do not receive the attention they deserve as farm workers is very evident to my mind, but I may not be able to make it as apparent to others. I admit that for many kinds of work, horses are preferable, such for instance as mowing and reaping, raking hay, working among field crops, &c.; but for a majority of purposes, oxen are not only quite as good but far preferable. For hauling wood and lumber, moving stone and manure, and the like, where great strength but not rapid motion is required no team equals an ox team. But says an objector, "I could never *plough* with oxen"—this opinion arises more from prejudice than from honest comparison. A well-bred and well-trained ox team are more than a match for an *ordinary* pair of horses, and with the same keeping and care we bestow upon our favorites of the stable, no farmer need blush for his oxen. I have frequently, in the New England States, where oxen are more generally used than anywhere else on the continent to my knowledge, seen oxen and horses ploughing in the same furrow, the oxen taking their turn without missing any day. I will not deny that oxen move more slowly than horses. But treat your horses as you do your oxen, and they could hardly move at all. You turn your oxen loose into the yard, give them coarse fodder, an open shed or no shelter at all, while your working horses are stabled, groomed, and fed on the choicest hay with abundance of grain—which care and feed add much to their spirit and action. Give oxen the same treatment and you will have an active, energetic, resolute team for the plough or wagon.

Oxen are far more economical and hence more

profitable than horses. A yoke of medium sized working oxen can be kept at hard work as cheaply as you can keep one horse, counting the wear and tear of harnessing and the extra feed the horse runs you in debt for. The ox feels the stimulus of extra feeding of esculents and grain quite as readily as the horse, and every pound of tallow you pack upon him adds just so much to your income. He is much less liable to disease of any kind and especially to affections of the joints and bones—and even were he subject to thoroughpin, windgalls, ringbone, splints, or all combined, his net value is not thereby greatly depreciated—as is the case with these diseases in the horse. Your proud stepping charger becomes real estate by a spavin, and when old age creeps upon him and he is incapacitated for labor, he is worse than a dead loss to his owners. Not so of our favorite the ox, no blemish ruins him in an economic point of view. Give him a few months rest in a good pasture with a little extra feeding of turnips in the fall, and your ox is nearly as valuable as ever. His beef and tallow will always sell him.

While neat cattle enrich the ground on which they pasture, horses are a constant leech. Observe how rank and verdant the grass grows about the excrement of the ox, and notice also the reverse to be true with that of the horse. I would not argue that the horse could well be displaced altogether—but I do submit that where there is occasion for more than one team, that a team of horses and one of oxen would be far more profitable than two horse teams. This parallel might be carried to much greater length, and the more the subject is examined, the more apparent will it become that the rearing and working of so many horses instead of enriching the farmers who follow it is yearly robbing them of the handsome profits incident to the rearing of neat cattle and sheep.

Oxen are not generally used in this country from some notions of pride neither commendable nor profitable. The ox is not fashionable, and why?—Simply from custom and because no care is bestowed in getting good stock and in matching the teams. I have seen many beautiful ox teams—so nicely matched were they that their owner would have to put a private mark on the near one that he might know to which side he belonged. So well handled were they that the plowman could run a furrow any distance as straight as an arrow without a driver.—Throw away all prejudice against the ox, and give him a fair trial, and my word for it you will not again be without him on your farms.—*Cor. Canadian Farmer.*

There are two reasons why we do not trust a man: one because we don't know him, and the other because we do.

CASHMERE GOAT.



CASHMERE GOATS.

A correspondent, says the *Country Gentleman*, in Alleghany county, Penn. sends us a beautiful sample of the fleece of these animals. It is from a flock owned by Mr. Jas. H. McNall of North Star, who have imported eleven head of Cashmere goats in the autumn of 1863. The correspondent says: "These goats have passed triumphantly through one of the hardest winters we have ever seen and stood it as well, if not better than sheep that were sheltered under the same roof, and received the same attention in every respect. They not only stood their long and tedious journey last summer, endured the piercing storms of the winter, but have also raised their kids, (some of which dropped in extremely cold weather in March,) and yielded each between three and four pounds of beautiful glossy and silk-like fibre, a sample of which I enclose. On the different animals the fibre varies in length from 10 to 15 inches. From appearance here now, I think the goat enterprise will be a success, and Mr. McNall will not only be well repaid in this branch of his stock growing (he is also a Spanish and Texel sheep breeder,) but will have the thanks of the community for introducing animals of this kind in these cotton scarce times. He has ordered 20 head more, to be

here in October next." The correspondent also remarks that the fears excited in his mind as to the value of these animals in this country, by the recent discussions on this subject in the *Country Gentleman*, have been entirely dispelled by the facts above stated.

SALT AND CHARCOAL FOR STOCK.—Farmers who raise stock should give them plenty of charcoal to eat, and freely of salt; as both charcoal and salt improve cattle and make them in good condition.—Salt acts on the blood. Charcoal strengthens and heals the mucous membrane throughout the alimentary canal, and increases the power of the digestive organs, healing any unhealthy condition existing there. It prevents worms generating in the stomach, &c.; it absorbs the putrescent gases by which worms are generated, and they consequently die.—The use of salt and the free use of charcoal will contribute to protect cattle from epidemics, and will counteract the effect of putrescent or septic water.

ADVICE.—To rise from adversity to prosperity the ladder must be ascended gradually and with extreme carefulness; but the majority in their eagerness to reach the summit try to step two rounds at a time, when, lo! they tumble down headlong into the mire twice as deep as before.

WATERING HORSES.

In a late number of the *American Stock Journal*, we find, says the *Germanatown Telegraph*, the following paragraph on the subject of watering horses, which, in reprinting, we beg to say that there is considerable diversity of opinion about what it advises. Along the seashore, say at Atlantic City, Cape May, &c., where visitors are driven about in the Jersey carriages, the drivers, who are generally shrewd men in matters relating to horse-flesh, are very careful not to water their horses over three times a day, without regard as to how much they have driven them. Some years ago, in taking one of our usual drives from Cape May a considerable distance into the country, during a very warm day, and not finding the horses to sweat, like other horses brought down from Philadelphia, we inquired of the driver the cause of it. His reply was—"People down here in Jersey do not water their horses at every stopping-place as you do up in Pennsylvania. We believe there is nothing so injurious to driving horses as too frequent watering. We water regularly three times a-day—morning, noon and evening—and find the animals to travel much freer, with less weariness, scarcely sweat at all, and are not nearly so liable to colds and other diseases. Beside, no horse *needs* watering oftener than three times a-day. Use them to it, and they neither suffer nor look for water until the period for watering comes round."

This struck us at the time as very plausible and even cogent reasoning. This was then and we presume is now the general opinion among the numerous owners of Jersey carriages at the shore. We have often thought of it since, and on several occasions when driving with friends have referred to it, but we believe never in print before the present.—What say our learned veterinary surgeons about it? We shall be glad to hear from them.

The following is the paragraph in the *Stock Journal* :—

"The quantity as well as quality of the water given a horse, will greatly affect his condition.—Perhaps no animal is more distressed by thirst than the horse, a fact not generally known, or if known, not fully appreciated. Horses should be watered *regularly*, when not at work, as well as when at work, provided, in the latter case, that care is taken not to let him have it when overheated by work.—Irregularity in the supply of water is often followed by a refusal to partake of solid food, and more frequently by colic and founder, in consequence of his drinking inordinately when an opportunity offers. For horses when they are not at work, it is perfectly safe to keep a supply of pure water always within their reach; but as before remarked, there is some danger in this plan when they are worked or driven, and are likely to become overheated.

"There is a very certain way of determining when a horse has been neglected. If the master,

on entering the stable, and lifting the water bucket, finds the animal placing himself in an attitude of expectation, and eagerly gazing upon the vessel, it is point blank evidence that his usual supply of water has been withheld."

WORKING BULLS.

We notice, says the *Germanatown Telegraph*, that the subject of working bulls on farms as well as in harness, is revived. On more than one occasion we have referred to this subject. A correspondent, too, from a distant Western State, if we remember rightly, spoke, from his own experience of the value of *cows*, attached to the wagons of emigrants to California overland. They not only endured the fatigues of the journey better than either oxen or horses, and afforded a good supply of milk all the way through, but they performed the journey quicker!

As to working bulls, there is no difficulty in the world in breaking them like oxen. They soon become very tractable and are much more valuable than oxen, in consequence of their more active movements. They can be managed with almost, if not quite, the ease and expedition of the horse, in all farm work. The following facts on this subject from a correspondent of the *Working Farmer*, will be read with interest:

"My experience corroborates the statements of the author as to the service of these animals when properly trained. I keep three horses, and yet most of my farm work, except plowing and dragging, has for two years past been done by a bull. He is used for all kinds of drafts, on the ground, on drag, in cart, in sleigh, in buggy, covered carriage, etc. He is used to cultivators, and rakes hay without a driver. The harness used is similar to the one in ordinary use for a horse, except that the collar and hames are inverted. He is more hardy than a horse, is guided with perfect ease and precision without reins, walks or trots, and is as kind and docile as a pet kitten. I think he will move as large a load as an ordinary horse.

"He belongs to my son, a lad of fifteen, who has broken and trained him. He will soon be five years old, is a fine animal, a cross of the Devon and Durham blood. My son is now training another, which will be two in a few months. He can be used already for almost any work, by being led. Learning to drive without leading requires some time and patience."

THE POTATO ROT.—At the last meeting of the N. Y. Farmers' Club, Carpenter said, "I have read and observed a great deal on the subject of the potato rot, and the sum of the whole seems to be that potatoes planted in moist, tenacious soils are much more subject to rot than when planted in dry ground." Mapes remarked: "I had a field, half of which was under drained, and I planted it to potatoes. On the under drained part, none rotted; other half, all rotted."

COOLING OFF.

Every observing farmer knows that men and horses are the only animals that have double means of refrigeration, and all others have but one. No other beings sweat like men and horses, and therefore cannot cool themselves by perspiring, through the skin. This will be found true throughout the whole range of comparative anatomy, and applies to the largest as well as the smallest beings. All the thick-skinned animals, except the horse, have powers in the skin to exhale heat by perspiration, it being only a secretive surface. All the cleft-foot species, including those with feet and toes rounded and unprovided with claws, the rhinoceros, elephant, bison, mastadon, buffalo, swine, ox, deer, lion, tiger, bear, wolf, fox, squirrel, dormouse, possum, raccoon, all, like the dog, have no means of cooling themselves; when heated, except through the medium of respiration. Thus the ox, when very hot, thrusts out his tongue and pants, to exhale the heat generated by exercise; and if driven without time allowed for this, will die with the heat that accumulates within him. Hogs often die when driven too fast because they cannot part generated heat.

Consolation for Mechanics and Merchants.

It is often asserted, though seldom proved, that farming is the most independent of all occupations; which I suppose means that farmers, as a class, can live longer and better unassisted by others, than others can unhelpt by them. But to me it appears quite otherwise, for I see no way by which the farmer can produce that upon which he can live and outlive those who are considered more dependent, unless first aided by others, the mechanics. Why am I not as dependent upon the mechanic for the indispensable implements used in raising the life-sustaining productions of the soil, as he is upon me for what I produce? The plow and harrow, the reaper and threshing machine, every tool used in performing all the various works of the farm are the productions of his skill; and why am I not as dependent upon him for these articles absolutely necessary, as he is upon me for the crops which I could not produce without him?

Machinery and tools are essential to the farmer. He can do but little without them. To dispense with the many and different implements used upon the farm would be to throw up his occupation.—Bare hands could not till the soil.—*Cor. Wis. Far.*

FOUL IN THE FOOT IN CATTLE—Caused by standing long in filth, may be cured by removing to a dry, clean place, washing with soap, then with chloride of lime, and applying carriers' oil. Washing with salt and water is useful.

USEFUL RECIPES.

SCOURS IN CALVES.—I have lost more or less calves for several years past from a weakness caused by the diarrhea, or looseness of the bowels, which in a few days would so reduce them that with my utmost skill I was unable to save them. At length I determined to find a cure. After much expense in the trials of many (so said) cures, I found it in the use of the most simple means. I took one-quarter of a pound of the best Rio coffee, (prepared as for table use,) boiled in 2 quarts of water, and after drenching with one pint at a dose from three to five times, I effected a perfect cure.—*Gen. Far.*

GALLS ON THE BACKS OF HORSES.—It is said that an ointment made of white lead and milk will greatly soothe and heal galls on horses, occasioned, as they frequently are, by a harness that does not fit, or from some other cause. In cases of long standing, it will be necessary to repeat the application daily for a week or more, gently rubbing and stirring the blood about the injured parts. Care must also be observed not to cause fresh irritation by riding or otherwise exciting the wound.—*N. E. Far.*

SLABBERING IN HORSES.—A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator says this is a disease in horses.—Saltpetre, a tablespoonfull for a dose, he has found to cure the worst case he ever had, and has not found it necessary ever to give the fourth dose. He gives a tablespoonful in the morning, and in three days, if he is not free from it, repeat the dose.

HOW TO GET RID OF MOSQUITOES.—Mosquitoes, says somebody, love beef blood better than they do any that flows in the veins of human kind. Just put a couple of generous pieces on plates, near your bed at night, and you will sleep untroubled by these pests. In the morning you will find them full and stupid with beef blood, and the meat sucked as dry as a cork.

HENS EATING THEIR EGGS.—S. E. Todd says hens can be prevented from eating their eggs when addicted to the habit, by making their nests in nail kegs, half filled with straw. This furnishes a secret place for laying, but too confined to allow their eating their eggs while on the nest, and too far down to allow of their reaching them from the top of the keg.

A CAT HINT.—When a cat is seen to catch a chicken, tie it round her neck, and make her wear it for two or three days. Fasten it securely, for she will make incredible efforts to get rid of it. Be firm for that time, and the cat is cured—she will never again desire to touch a bird. This is what we do with our own cats, and what we recommend to our neighbors; and when they try the experiment, they and their pets are secure from reproach and danger henceforth.

The Dairy.

Keep Up the Flow of Milk in Droughts.

A drought in summer, scorching the pastures, drying the streams, parching the land far and near, is a great calamity, and none feel it quicker than the dairyman. The provident farmers have made provision for any such occurrence, by putting in corn or sorghum, or other green fodder crops, which will afford an abundance of excellent forage for a long time, and if not thus used, will furnish dry fodder for winter feeding. Corn, if only well cured, is second in value only to good meadow hay of mixed grasses. Wherever it is possible, the practice of "taking up" the cows every night, stalling or yarding them and feeding green fodder, or an equivalent, is advisable. A little oil cake meal, or cotton-seed-cake meal, or Indian meal fed daily at this time makes itself very profitably felt in the milk pail, or in the butter tub.

As soon, at any rate, as the least undue diminution in the quantity of milk is noticed, and accurate observations ought to be made daily, measures ought to be taken to keep up the flow. Farmers are so much in the habit of letting cows fall off in milk during the summer drought, that unless they almost dry up many would regard it as only the natural course of things. If, however, they have constantly full feed during the first four or five months after calving, the falling off should be very small. If the cows cannot well be stalled, nor put into loose boxes in sheds or barns, they may, at least, very easily be yarded. It is best to put a large herd in several small, sheltered, dry yards, those agreeing best or of about equal strength being put together. When the one or two fighters or "bullies" of the herd are taken out for a night, the rest will be quiet enough, and a decidedly better return for the feed may be expected. The yards ought to have fodder racks, so that the feed will not be wasted. The amount of feed to be provided for the cows, and the time to take them up will depend very much upon the condition of the pastures. They ought to be turned out very early so that they may fill themselves, if they can, before the heat of the day, or else they should have a feed before they leave the yard. With the return of rains and a good growth of grass, if it is desirable, the feeding at home may be discontinued. By this practice a much better flow of milk will be secured for the autumn and winter.—*American Agriculturist*.

Cows in milk require more food in proportion to their size and weight, than either oxen or young cattle. Cows eat less, however, thrive better, and give more milk when housed all the time, than when exposed to the cold.

GOOD MILKERS.

It is an easy matter to distinguish a good milker. The farthest removed from the bull the better. As the male has no milking properties, and the female is devoted to them; and none so much as the cow; so we are to judge from this principle.

No person of ordinary intelligence would select a cow with thick neck; heavy bones, and a bull-like disposition. On the other hand, the true cow, the good milker, is easily known by its thin neck, sometimes almost amounting to deformity (the case with one of ours); small bones; thin, sensitive hide; thin tail; and (most of all) a mild, placid disposition, showing absence of animal heat which consumes, or prevents milk from forming. A quiet, motherly face, denoting intelligence and domesticity, is what is wanted. The reservoir of milk, of course, must be large, or there cannot be stored a large quantity. A large, well-formed bag, therefore is a necessity. A small udder is an invariable sign of a poor milker. The form and size of a cow are not always to be depended upon. The disposition is perhaps as much, if not more, than any other one point; some say than all other points. We remember a heavy-headed, coarse-bodied cow, but with the mildest of dispositions, as one of the best butter makers we know; a good eater, always healthy.—She made during the month of June, 15 lbs. of the best butter a week; and gave a good flow of milk nearly the year round. Avoid the bull and seek the farthest opposite qualities for the best milker.—*Maine Farmer*.

Summer Butter for Winter.

Will you please inform me the best way to keep butter good till fall, as we are now making more than we can use, and the store-keepers here will not give more than *fifteen or twenty cents per pound in trade*. This will not pay, as they are putting prices for their goods up every day or two. And oblige an old
KENT COUNTY SUBSCRIBER.

REMARKS.—The process is very simple, so far as we understand it. Make the butter well, and work it thoroughly. Salt as usual, and pack down in stone jars, made as cleanly as possible. Cover with an inch of strong brine, and place in a cool, airy place. Should the brine mould, remove and apply freshly made. There may be other and better modes; if so, we shall be glad to receive them from those having had experience.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

PAINT TO ENDURE.—It is said that boiling coal tar with slaked lime, will make a shining surface on wood work, and walls of any kind, which is as imperishable as stone, and therefore valuable for out-houses, &c.

Grape Culture.

A NEW WAY TO PROPAGATE GRAPE VINES.

We get our new fashions from Paris, and it is said that most of the new practical ideas of culture originate from the French. On looking through a file of French papers recently, we found the following "new idea," which, as it must be new, when the French say it is, we translate for our readers' benefit:

"The best way to propagate the grapevine, undoubtedly, is the system recently discovered by M. Fabvier, a celebrated vigneron of the Haut Garonne. He selects the strongest of last year's shoots as soon as the leaves fall in autumn, and cuts out the eyes, with about a quarter of an inch of wood above and below the bud, at that season. He then mixes an abundance of earth with them, and sets them in a cool cellar for the winter. As soon in spring as the ground will work, he sets the buds two inches deep under ground, and about nine inches apart in the rows, covering the depth of two inches above the eye, with very rich soil. The vines so produced are equal in strength to one year's growth, to the strongest layers of the same age."

Now, there does not seem to an American much novelty in raising grapes from eyes; nine-tenths of the grapes sold here, being so raised; but there is for all a little novelty in successfully raising them this way in the open air. The trouble with us has been, that in open air attempts, we imitate our hot-house practice, and set the bud just level with the surface of the ground, and our warm summer sun soon settles that business. The buds dry out before the roots get deep enough to save them. We doubt if any American propagator thought of putting a bud two inches under ground, or dreamed if he did, that a bud would manage to push through that thickness of soil.

Perhaps they will. It is at any rate worth the trial. If really good one year vines can be had from eyes in the open ground, it will be a much cheaper way of raising grapes than that now generally followed; and the plants without doubt would be considerably healthier.—*Gardener's Monthly*.

Grape Trellis—To Hasten Ripening.

In perusing your paper I have noticed various methods of building grape trellis and the manner of putting up the wires. I have a plan in use, which I think is about right, since I have to use no horse to draw the wire tight, nor vice to hold it. As it may be of some advantage to some of your many readers I will give it. Take a piece of one-half inch round iron, four inches long, punch a hole, one inch from the end, large enough to receive the wire, then flat-

ten outside of the hole to the thickness of one-eighth of an inch; bore a half-inch hole in the post at the end of the trellis, make the wire fast at the other, drive in the iron pin, insert the wire, and, with a monkey-wrench, wind up the wire as you would tighten the string of a guitar. The pins can be furnished by any blacksmith for about five cents each. In cold weather they can be loosened easily, unwinding the wire by turning the pin back.

I have also read much about girdling vines to hasten ripening and increase size of fruit. I have a way of my own which I think is much better; and I ask some of your readers who are grape-growers to try it and report, if they think it worth while.

When the fruit becomes about the size of double B shot, or about the first of July, cut off the branch of the vine three joints beyond the outer cluster of grapes; then gently break the branch inside of the first cluster, so that it will hold by the bark; make it fast, and my own experience last season was I had Isabellas on branches that I broke that measured seven eighths of an inch in diameter, and ripened two weeks ahead of the others.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker*.

PLANTING GRAPE VINES.

I have found little difference in the growth of vines, whether planted in Fall or Spring. When planted in the Fall and slightly protected during the first Winter, an early start, and usually a more vigorous growth may be expected, than from vines transplanted in Spring. A somewhat elevated situation, and a deep, pervious soil, moderately rich, is best. A calcareous clay loam, well underdrained, will produce good healthy vines and fruit, and if abounding somewhat in gravel or pebbles, so much the better. If lime is not naturally in the soil, it should be pretty freely supplied; and if the soil is poor, enrich it with any well decomposed manure on hand. Fresh or partially decomposed manure induces unhealthy growth, and disposes vines to mildew. Low situations, where water will settle and stagnate about the roots, will not answer.—Where immediate fruiting of young vines is desired, permit but one cane to grow; stop or pinch off all laterals at one joint from the main stem; keep the vine tied upright, and at the height of four or five feet, pinch off the leading shoot. This course will strengthen the lower buds, and often give fruit the year after planting.—*Cor. Ohio Farmer*.

To all those proposing to make Wine or Cider this season, we would call attention to the Hutchinson's Portable Cider and Wine Mills, with Press combined, offered by J. B. Brown & Co., of Peekskill, N. Y. This machine is very simple in construction and durable in its manufacture, making it an excellent machine for family use. They can be had of our agricultural dealers generally.

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FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

For the benefit of all interested we publish the following law recently passed by Congress, restoring to the Agricultural as well as the other Departments of the Government, the full franking privilege, by which it will be seen that no prepayment of postage is required in addressing small parcels, seeds, cuttings, &c., to the Department of Agriculture :

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all communications relating to the official business of the Department to which they are addressed, of whatever origin, addressed to the Chiefs of the several Executive Departments of the Government, or to such principal officers of each Executive Department, being heads of bureaus or chief clerks, or one duly authorized by the Postmaster General to frank official matter, shall be received and conveyed by mail free of postage without being indorsed "Official Business," or with the name of the writer.

All grain crops should be harvested before the grain is thoroughly ripe.

TO OUR READERS.

As one of the most important features of an agricultural journal is to record for general inspection and improvement the experience of our successful farmers, it should be borne in mind by every reader of *THE FARMER*, that as a quid pro quo for what he is enabled to derive from the experience of others he should endeavor to communicate to its columns some little matter, be it ever so little, of his own experience, which may be useful to his neighbours—be the experiments, successful or unsuccessful. No one need be deterred on account of inexperience in writing, as it is the practical matter of the communication that is important, and not the finely rounded periods with which it is sometimes clothed.—There can be no difficulty in writing plain facts in a plain way, and whatever obstacles may appear at first will soon wear away by a little experience.—Some of the best writers we have known, have sprung from a class of excellent practical farmers whose first efforts at literature were based upon an honest desire to become useful to those whose experience had at first been to some extent, their own guide. Nothing can be better calculated to bring out a thorough practical knowledge of any department of agricultural pursuits than the combined experiences of all presented to each in the form of little farm notes that can be easily penned; thus what is known can be well studied, and what is not known can be speedily learned from inquiry. We invite our readers to take this matter home to themselves, and help us to inaugurate in this journal a chapter of notes, enquiries and answers, which to the enterprising agriculturist will be a fund of ample instruction to which all can contribute and in which all may find something to learn.

THE DROUGHT AND THE CROPS.—There is no question that the corn crops and all descriptions of vegetation are suffering severely from the protracted drought. Our Maryland exchanges all complain of the need of rain. Many sections of Baltimore, Howard, Harford and other counties of the State have not been visited by rains calculated to benefit the crops to any extent for five or six weeks. It is stated in the Snow Hill Shield that there has been no rain in Worcester county for nearly two months, and the consequence is the corn and potato crops will be an almost entire failure. In many sections of Pennsylvania all the small streams are dried up, and many of the springs are yielding but a scanty supply of water. The drought is equally severe in the New England States. Destructive fires are raging in the woods in different directions, and vegetation generally presents a dried and parched appearance.

Prospective Increase of Demand for American Breadstuffs Abroad.

The Dano-German War has been so remote from us and we have been so largely absorbed in our own perplexed affairs, that but little attention has been paid to it. Now that the Conference in London has failed, there is nothing left, we are told by the leading press of England, but for the war to go on, and as hostilities progress there is every probability of an increasing demand for our leading agricultural staples. The renewal of the blockade of the German ports by the Danes follows, as a matter of course, upon the renewal of hostilities, and the blockade of the Belts stop commerce from the Baltic, and cuts off the supplies of grain which Western Europe has been accustomed to draw from that section. There is no other route which can be employed, except land carriage, which would be altogether too expensive, and would raise the cost a long way above that at which American grain can be laid down in Great Britain and France. The food question, then, promises to be the great and absorbing one of Western Europe, in the event of the war continuing for any considerable time, as neither England and France grow their own bread. Ten years ago Prussia furnished 500,000 quarters, or 4,000,000 bushels of wheat for their supply, together with a similar amount of other cereals, and the quantities have been steadily increasing since. In fact, this source of supply has grown to be a necessity for England, and now that it is suddenly stopped, and cannot be renewed till the Dano-German War is ended, it becomes a matter of interest to know what proportion of the deficiency thus created can be made good from other regions. The only other available sources left are the Danubian Principalities and the United States. The former, under the most favorable circumstances, cannot supply the deficiency caused by the closing of the German ports, and we therefore conclude that the continuance of the war must soon cause a drain upon this country, the effects of which will be to materially strengthen our finances, and create another disuasive against European intervention, if more should be needed. It is true we have an unwonted home consumption to supply, and this consumption must continue so long as the rebellion exists; but there is reason to believe that we shall have a handsome surplus to spare, over and above all our necessities; notwithstanding reports with regard to short crops.

It would seem as if we are really to profit, in a financial point of view, by those warnings which threaten to change the map of Northern Europe, and it will be not the least singular circumstance of the times, nor the least singular evidence of our strength, if, while suppressing treason at home, we are enabled to contribute to the support of Foreign Countries, in the matter of food.

The Weather and the Crops.

The weather continues extremely warm, and the crops, in many sections, are suffering from a protracted drought. Harvesting is now in progress, and from the most authentic accounts at hand, the crop of winter Wheat will be about 30 per cent. below the average, on account of injuries sustained by frost and drought. The crop of spring Wheat, it is believed, will also be rather below the average, on account of the lateness of the spring and scarcity of labor.—So many men have been diverted by the war from agricultural pursuits, that considerable difficulty is experienced in procuring an adequate supply of farm hands in many sections, even at the exorbitant wages paid, ranging from \$3 to \$4 per day, with board. This difficulty, however, is

to a great extent counter-balanced by the vast increase in labor-saving machinery, without which it would be physically impossible to take care of the crops. It is estimated, for instance, that a single reaping machine effects the saving of the labor of at least five men. A good machine, with five men, will cut, bind and stack from twelve to fourteen acres of Grain per day, or two hundred and fifty acres in a single season, a task which would have required, without a machine, the labor of fifteen men for its accomplishment. It is reported that forty thousand of these reapers have been manufactured and sold within one year, and the estimate for the coming year is one hundred thousand, and that will save the labor of four hundred thousand men. The quantity of Wheat grown in all the States and Territories in 1849, was only 100,485,944 bushels, while in 1859, ten years afterwards, it was 171,183,381 bushels, being an increase of 70 per cent., or about double the increase of population in the same period, and it is safe to say that the increase since has been at a corresponding ratio. The backwardness of the spring retarded Corn planting, but the warm weather has brought the crop forward very rapidly, and it now promises, in most sections, to be a full average crop. Oats are universally spoken off as promising the largest yield ever known. The Rye, Barley and Grass crops are also reported to be unusually large. The true wealth of a nation is said to be derived from its agricultural products, and from the present appearances we think there is abundant reason for rejoicing at the present prospect of a bountiful harvest.—*New York Shipping List.*

THE RAIN!—GLORIOUS RAIN.—Our city and the surrounding country have been refreshed with blessed and blessing rains on Sunday evening, July 24, and Monday morning. The parched and thirsty earth drank deep of the delicious beverage, and the burning corn and languid vegetation were jubilant over the bounteous outpouring of the clouds that hung so darkly over us, but which made everything so joyous beneath. Nature never sent earth a more welcome boon—for the earth was indeed glad—the corn frolicked—the trees and vines were gleesome—and the husbandman and the husbandman's family clapped their hands and fairly laughed again—for rain had been a stranger to them for many a week.

PURCHASE OF A SPLENDID ESTATE.—The splendid estate of C. C. McTavish, Esq., known as Carrollton Hall, situated in Howard county, near Ellicotts Mills, has been purchased by Charles M. Dougherty, Esq., of the firm of Dougherty, Woods & Co., for \$100,000. It contains about 1,100 acres of good land, with improvements on the place that cost over \$50,000, and is one of the most beautiful and valuable estates in Maryland.

WANTED 500,000 MORE MEN.—President Lincoln, under date of July 18, makes a call for half a million more men. Fifty days are allowed to furnish recruits, either for one, two or three years service, and all quotas not filled will be drafted for immediately after the 5th day of September next, to serve for one year.

THE FRUIT CULTURE.

The following from the Cecil Democrat, shows how rapidly the cultivation of Fruit is progressing on the peninsula of Maryland and Delaware, and demonstrates the peculiar adaptability of the soil and climate to this particular department of husbandry. There are a host of farmers, in addition to those named, whose fruit crops yield annually no small portion of the profits of their farms. With the introduction of the canning business, the raising of fruit has become still more lucrative, and is attracting the attention of all enterprising agriculturists. Years ago, a gentleman residing on a large estate in the vicinity of Baltimore, assured us that his five acres of strawberries and fifty acres in peaches, yielded him a larger profit than the remaining four hundred and fifty acres which he cultivated in grass and grain :—

It is now well known that the Peninsula between the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays, is one of the finest regions for fruit growing to be found in the country. The Peach, the Grape, the Pear, and other varieties of fruit flourish here in great perfection. The Apple alone, of all the different varieties of fruit grown in this region, seems not to thrive as well as formerly. The Peach culture is a most extensive and lucrative business. The crop, this season, promises to be a very large one, and the prices are likely to be very remunerative. Indeed, they must be so, for there are no peaches in the West, the trees having been destroyed by the severity of the last winter. In New Jersey the crop will be small, so that the immense orchards in Eastern Maryland and Delaware will be as good as a gold mine to their fortunate proprietors. We mention only a few facts, that have come to our knowledge lately, which will serve to illustrate the extent of the Peach production in this region. Mr. Lum, near Summit Bridge, in New Castle county, Delaware, expects to pick and send to market, this season, 10,000 baskets. Mr. Reybold, who has an orchard of 600 acres in the lower part of Cecil county, is thrown quite in the shade by Messrs. Morton & Harris, of Queen Anne's county, whose "Round Top" farm embraces 1400 acres, 1100 of which are in peaches. Colonel Wilkins, of Kent county, Md., sent 120,000 baskets of peaches to market last year. He also made 600 gallons of Catawba Wine, and has erected a distillery upon his premises, at a cost of \$3,000, for the distillation of peach Brandy: from his refuse or unsaleable peaches. His farm lies upon that noble stream, the Chester River, about three miles below Chestertown, and contains about 1000 acres. He has also an orchard of 1000 dwarf pear trees. Mr. Parsons, of Kent, is another large peach grower, but there are many others that might be named, all

of whom are profitably engaged in this money-coining business, and whose profits, in proportion to the number of acres in culture, probably exceed those of the gentlemen named above. Their orchards extend for miles, in every direction. It is a most interesting sight to journey through this region in the "peach season" to witness the activity and extent of their operations. Steamers run daily to Baltimore and Philadelphia, freighted down almost to the guards with this luscious fruit, to delight the palates of the denizens of our great cities. Agents from New York have been down the Delaware Railroad and into Maryland, offering \$1.00 per basket for whole orchards, the fruit to be packed and delivered upon the wharf. But we have heard of no sales yet effected at that price.

Cultivation of Cotton in France.

We translate, says the Scientific American, the following paragraph from the *Moniteur des Brevets d'Inventions* :

"The trial of the culture of cotton has been made with a veritable success in Camargue, in the lands of the Chateau of Avignon, the most vast of the domains of the territory of Arles. Among the bolls of cotton gathered some have the long staple and others the short. The essay, made on a small scale and in the open air, has perfectly succeeded. At the end of November the plants were yet covered with a great number of bolls which continued to ripen, though very slowly. Those gathered in August, September and October were very well manured."

It will be remembered that the southern boundary of France is further north than New York city.

RAILROADS.—All our railroads, lately severed by the rebel raiders, are repaired, and again in good order for business. Produce, much needed, is beginning to flow Eastward, and coffee, sugar, dry goods, &c, have an outlet Westward. Coal from Cumberland will again be in large supply, and lower prices may reasonably be anticipated. Business generally, which has been very sluggish for several weeks, will we trust, experience prompt reviving.

TO DRINKERS!—Not Beer, but good old Tea drinkers—we would call attention to the offer of the "Baltimore Tea Company," conducted by S. S. Mills, Jr. & Co., 22 W. Baltimore Street—of Teas of every quality, from the finest high flavored Imperial to the lowest Green, at either wholesale or retail—all the retail business is done at wholesale prices, thereby enabling the purchaser of small quantities to obtain their teas at the same rates as when bought in bulk. They also offer Coffee, Spices, and Refined Sugars, of superior quality, and cheaper than any other establishment in Baltimore. Call and see for yourselves.

What garment is too light to be either modest or useful? The shift of the wind.

ON CIDER AND ITS USES.

The following methods of making Cider and Wine we extract from W. O. Hickok's trade circular :

There are very few persons that have not heard of cider ; and yet there are comparatively few who are aware how rich a drink it is when made pure ; free from water, the taste of straw, and all the impurities that, under the old fashioned system of cider making, are incorporated into its composition.

When pure and well made, it is doubtless far healthier than wine, and for liver complaints it is a sovereign remedy. On this account alone, the portable cider mills that make cider without straw are a benefit to the community, and when the farmer will take the same pains with his cider that the vine-grower does with his wine, he will find an unlimited demand for it at highly remunerative prices, and if the severe excise tax now imposed on whiskey will turn the attention of the people to cider, it will confer an inestimable benefit.

Pick all the apples, rejecting those not sound, and wash them clean, and afterwards let them lie and get dry. Grind and press them, using no water or straw, or any substance that will give the cider an unpleasant taste, as on the purity and cleanness of the apples depends the quality of the cider.—Strain the juice through a woolen or other close bag, put into clean barrels and set in a moderately cool place, keeping the barrel full all the time, so that the impurities may work off at the bung. After it has done working rack it carefully off, let it stand a few days and bung it up. As the air tends to sour the cider it is a good plan to provide a bent tin tube, one end fastened in the bung and the other to drop down into a bucket of water. This will let all the gas pass off and not let the air get to the cider. The quicker the pomace is pressed after being ground the lighter will the color be; and darker, if not pressed for 24 hours after being ground. The cider from the second and third dressing will be the richest—the reverse is the case in making wine, as a severe pressure on the must makes sour wine. Cider making should be conducted with all the care that wine making is. Most any good sour apple will make cider, but more generally an apple full of juice and not very good to eat, will make the best. The Virginia crab, perhaps, excels all other apples for cider making.

When bottled up with a little rock candy and wired, it will, after standing sometime, sparkle like champagne, when opened. To get cider very strong, expose it in a tub in extremely cold weather and remove the ice that forms; as this can be only water it leaves the ice that forms of additional strength.

Any substance put in to arrest the fermentation is of doubtful value, as all good cider must be per-

fectly fermented to be healthy. You had better depend rather on careful and clean making, and bottle tightly at the proper time.

WINE MAKING.

Pick the grapes off the stems when fully ripe, rejecting the bad ones.

Pass them through the wine mill to tear open the skins, but not to bruise the pulp. Press moderately; then get all that remains in the must to make brandy or an inferior sour wine of. Strain and fill into clean barrels; then insert a bent tube tight in the bung, and let the lower (outside) end rest under the surface of water in a bucket so that while all the gas shall escape, the air will not get to the wine. When it has done fermenting, rack it off into clean barrels, bung it up and set in a cool place—bottle it in a few months. The great secret of making good wine is to select only the best grapes, and not press out the sour portion of the pulp.

Nothing is here said about the numerous mixtures of water, sugar and grape juice which are frequently concocted and sold under the name of wine, but only to the pure juice of the grape, properly fermented.

Drilling Wheat.

We are convinced that putting in wheat with a drill is not only the preferable plan, but that a great saving of seed may be effected by it, and an increased produce obtained. To sow a hundred acre field broadcast, as it ought to be, will require 200 bushels of seed; whereas 125 bushels, if put in with the machine, will answer fully as well, thereby saving 75 bushels in 100 acres. The ridge raised by the machine protects the plant through the winter; and in spring, if the roots should be thrown out, many, if not most of them will be covered by the crumbling down of the ridges. All that would be necessary to render this certain would be, in the spring, to pass a roller over the field, as soon as the frost was out of the ground, and the soil dry, as the compression of the ridges would necessarily cover up most of the roots that might be found exposed upon the surface, and thus insure their taking root and growing.—Besides, the intervals between the drills would secure a free circulation of air through the plants while growing, and be particularly serviceable in preserving, to a great extent, the grain from rust. If the cause of this disease be atmospheric, and some believe it is, the free circulation of air, would not fail to be productive of the good claimed for it.

Those in need of Table Cutlery, Plated Goods, Family and Fancy Hardware and House-furnishing articles of every description, can be accommodated by calling on Cortlan & Co., 216 and 218 W. Baltimore street, Baltimore, where the most fastidious taste cannot fail to be pleased in the above line of goods. See advertisement.



FARM IMPLEMENTS & MACHINERY.

EXTRACTS FROM PATENT OFFICE REPORT.

CLASS A.—AGRICULTURE.

DIVISION I.—IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINES FOR WORKING THE SOIL, SOWING AND PLANTING.

DIVISION III.—IMPLEMENTS, ETC., FOR PREPARING PRODUCE FOR MARKET.

The most striking fact connected with this class is the rapid increase of applications filed. Notwithstanding half a million of our agriculturists have been withdrawn from the farm to engage in military service, still the number of applications for patents on agricultural implements (exclusive of reapers, beehives, horse hay-forks, and horse hay-rakes) has increased from three hundred and fifty in 1861, to five hundred and two in 1863. It is this large drain upon the laboring classes which has caused a greater demand than usual for labor-saving machinery. The increased demand for farm products, and their higher price in consequence, have also doubtless helped to increase the number of labor-saving machines; first, by stimulating agriculturists to increase the quantity of their products, while they could obtain for them these higher rates; and secondly, by rendering them more able to purchase such machines.

As a general thing, the inventions in this class have consisted in improvements upon existing implements, with the object of rendering them more perfect in their operation and more elegant in appearance. Machines for sowing and planting seed are the most numerous in this class, and they have been brought to such a state of perfection that one can now be supplied with those which will plant everything, from a mustard seed to a potato, either by hand or animal power, and at prices varying from one hundred dollars down to two dollars and fifty cents. In these machines and implements attention has been turned, of late, more to the details, such as inventing improved methods and devices for distributing evenly and without crushing the seed; and also in providing machines with indexes for regulating and indicating the quantity sown per acre; in devices for converting them, at pleasure, from drill to broadcast sowers, and *vice versa*: and in improvements by which the tubes or teeth are

prevented from being broken or injured by roots, stones, etc.

Much attention has also been given in this class to machines for sowing wheat, oats, etc., which are attached to the body of the operator, worked by a crank, and distributing the seed broadcast by centrifugal force. Next in number and importance are cultivators, which appear to have assumed almost every conceivable form and style. The most noticeable feature in connection with them is the making of them tall, and so constructing the frame that they may readily pass over corn from four to six feet high, and in so arranging and pivoting the shares that they may be readily controlled in their movements, and enable the operator to adapt their movements to the irregularity of the plants in the row.

In plows there has been less improvement, the form of the mold-board, which is the main feature, having apparently been brought to a satisfactory condition. Of late, more attention has been given to arranging the plow in connection with a frame mounted on wheels, whereby the plowman can "both hold and drive" while sitting securely upon his seat; also in arranging two or more plows in a gang, whereby one man can operate two plows and teams as readily as one, thus saving the time and labor of one man.

In steam plows considerable has also been done, mostly, however, in the form of rotating, digging, or spading machines. The demand for increased facilities for raising grain, together with the destruction by war, and consequent scarcity and high price of animals for farm labor, renders this at present, a most inviting field for inventors.

Machines for threshing and cleaning grain have received a large share of attention, and have been rendered so complete that the grain is now threshed, cleaned, measured and bagged, and the straw stacked at one operation. Improvements have also been made in the machines by which the dust is taken up and conveyed away, and also by which the bands are cut and the sheaves fed into the thresher. Connected with these is a class of machines of recent origin, by which clover is threshed, separated from the straw, hulled and cleaned, at one operation.

In grain separators great improvements have also been made, whereby oats and foul stuff are more readily and thoroughly separated from the wheat, thereby furnishing a better article for seed, and adding greatly to the market value of the wheat crop.

Dairy implements, especially for the manufacture of cheese and the working of butter, have been much improved. In churns nothing of special importance has been developed.

Considerable improvements have also been made in a large number of miscellaneous implements con-

nected with agriculture, such as manure distributors, fruit-gatherers, cow-milkers, field-rollers, cattle and sheep racks, farm and fruit ladders, egg-hatching machines, and machines for manufacturing cigars and tobacco in all its varieties, potato diggers, straw and vegetable cutters, stone-gatherers, bog-cutters for smoothing rough meadow land and adapting it to the use of the mower, boxes and baskets for packing and conveying fruit to market, etc.—Indeed, throughout this entire class there appears to be an increased activity in the effort to substitute labor-saving machinery for manual labor, and judging from appearances, with most beneficial results.

DIVISION II.—IMPLEMENTS, ETC., FOR HARVESTING AND SECURING CROPS.

The improvements in this class of machines during the year have been chiefly in details of construction, looking rather to the simplifying and the perfecting of the operation of such as are most approved and in common use, than to any marked change in the principal of construction or operation of such machines.

The large number of re-issues of important patents in this branch tends to show the increased importance which they have assumed, both in a legal and a commercial point of view. The number of these machines manufactured during the year, as learned from reliable sources, is upwards of 40,000, while the number in process of manufacture, required for the harvest of 1864, is estimated at over 90,000 machines.

DIVISION IV.—GRINDING MILLS FOR GRAIN, SUGAR, ETC.

During the past year the improvements in flouring mills have been, for the most part, confined to the bolting apparatus, looking particularly to the quality of the flour produced.

Machines for hulling rice have been considerably improved and perfected, so that greater quantities can be hulled now, without breaking the grains, in a given time than formerly.

The attention of agriculturists having been, by a necessity growing out of the war, directed to the production of sugar cane, which has added millions already to our national wealth, there have been various improvements in sugar mills, as well as machines for crushing the cane.

MISS DEMOREST'S MIRROR OF FASHIONS.—We have received the late issue of this truly elegant quarterly, and would commend it as an excellent and really valuable adjunct to every family desirous of knowing what is going on in the way of dress, in the great world around them, and how to economically adapt their costume to the prevailing styles. The number before us has about 40 illustrations of women's and childrens' wear, music, patterns, &c. Publishing in New York, at \$1 per year.

Few ladies are so modest as to be unwilling to sit in the lap of luxury and ease.

CULTIVATE THE CANE.

Sugar cane for a month or two after planting, and often as late as the 1st of August, gives very little promise of a good crop. During all this while, however, the plants are making root and gathering energy for a grand dash when the proper time comes. There is great danger that its tardy growth and diminutive appearance at this season, may cause it to be neglected and the weeds to acquire ascendancy. Many fields of cane have thus been given up and allowed to go to waste, when if properly attended they would have produced good crops. Be not discouraged by the stunted appearance of the plants compared with corn, at the beginning of the season. It is all right. This is the nature of the thing. If only well cared for it will, by the 1st of August or before, be seen looming up and overtopping the corn as far as it was apparently behind it. Therefore, cultivate assiduously, and, again we say,—cultivate.—*The Sorgo (Cincinnati) Journal*.

CARBONIC ACID AND GAS.

This is one of the most potent principles in nature. A late writer says: "The volume of bulk of carbonic acid gas expired by a healthy adult in twenty-four hours, amounts to fifteen thousand cubic inches, containing about six ounces of solid carbon." This is at the rate of one hundred and thirty-seven pounds avoirdupois per annum, and taking the entire population of the globe to be seven hundred and sixty millions, the amount of solid carbon, or charcoal, every year produced by the combustion of fires and gas lights, by the decay of animal and vegetable matter, the exhalations from springs, &c., there need be no marvel as to the source whence plants derive their solid or woody material, which is principally carbon, seeing that their leaves are specially fitted for the absorption of carbonic acid gas from the surrounding atmosphere. To investigate the part this important and potent principle performs in the economy of nature, would demand the energies of a lifetime; but enough is known with certainty concerning it, to impress the inquiring and studious mind with a very impressive idea of its general diffusion and importance.—*Tel*.

THE SORGO JOURNAL.—We have received several numbers of this valuable journal, devoted to "Northern Cane and Sugar-Beet Culture, Improved Farm Machinery, and Progressive Husbandry." It is published monthly at Cincinnati, at \$1 per year. It is conducted with ability, and though particularly devoted to Sorghum culture, contains matters interesting to farmers generally.

The Trotting horse JOHN BELL will stand at Oakland, near Ellicott's Mills, the balance of the season, for the accommodation of those wishing to improve their stock; he is said to have made the best time of any trotter in the State. See advertisement.

Horticultural.

NURSERY AND ORCHARD.

An experience of fourteen years in the nursery and orchard, prove how little I once knew, and how much is yet to be learned. Man is naturally ignorant, but, thank Heaven, he has the adaptability to learn. Pomology is a science—a noble one. Fruit, rich, ripe and delicious! How healthful, how ennobling! Means must be used to accomplish ends.—Causes produce effects. Change is the order of this world. Alkalies, acids, oxyds, gases, electricity, light, heat, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, etc., are means used by the great laboratory, Nature; her house is stored with useful materials and, by her, are well-used.

To succeed, as a nurseryman or orchardist, some vegetable physiology, agricultural chemistry, and meteorology are necessary. With these, industry and common sense, success will crown his efforts. Without them, he will be a bungler, and fail. Discrimination and taste should characterize the votaries of Pomona.

The Nursery.—Too much cannot be said, under this head, if rightly spoken, on the subject. The soil should be dry, rich, and full of vegetable mold. A dry soil makes healthy, vigorous roots and bodies; and if rich, large growth, vegetable mold is highly important; it keeps the soil loose, warm and moist, three things, essentially necessary to the healthy growth of trees. Deep culture early in the season, and surface culture after—especially after a beating rain. Deep culture has more advantages than the simple one of mechanically mellowing the soil; there is sound philosophy in deep and frequent plowing. Diseased organs may be restored by pruning, repeated stirrings of the earth, and an application of liquid manure; this I have tried repeatedly. Example: Take a nursery, the cions of which are covered with mildew and fungus, prune off the fungus, add liquid manure, and *plow deep*. In a week or so, a new vigorous growth of wood, and rich, dark green leaves are the result. Back of this end, effect or result, are causes, and here is the result—the fundamental principle: The earth is a *pile*, containing most, and frequently when brought into proper action, all materials necessary, with air, heat, light, water and electricity to produce healthy plants or vigorous trees. Electricity, in its various and modified forms, induce all motion, even *vital motion*. In a mellowed mass are minerals forming a battery; these in their action, as alkalies, acids, oxyds becomes changed—*plus*. The spungioles of the roots are *ne-plus*, and absorb this vitalized food; in a hard soil no such action takes place, hence the phi-

losophy of *deep plowing*. All know how to graft or bud; if not, they can learn elsewhere; root-grafting is bad, nearly always sending up water-sprouts, just below the union. Graft on healthy seeding stocks, just above the ground; bud the same. With common sense and energy added, we have said enough.

The orchard, if properly attended to, is worthy a place in every well-regulated farm. It is valuable and pays. Johnson said apple-dumplings were good, as whole families could be raised on them. Apples are fine for China-boys, chickens, sheep, hogs, horses and cattle, raw or cooked. In setting an orchard the following rules should be observed:—

First—Plow the land twenty inches deep, or more. Take a common plow, with a strong team, turning up the earth ten inches; and follow with a sub-soil plow, cutting twenty inches deep.

Second—Harrow till level and well mellowed.

Third—Set the trees deep enough so as not to be injured by the plow, near the tree, when the main roots are large.

Fourth—Set yearlings, as they do better than two, four, or six-years-old trees.

Fifth—Young trees should never be manured, as it is apt to make them tender, unless the soil is poor, or a stiff clay.

An orchard, in bearing, must be well cultivated, liberally manured and pruned, to insure good fruit.—The distance and method in setting the orchard is a matter of taste, except the trees should be far enough apart not to stride each other when large. Hogs and fowls should be permitted to run in the orchard freely. They are of immense benefit for destroying grubs, worms, insects and fallen fruit.—*California (San Francisco) Farmer.*

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CLEANSING THE BARK OF TREES.—One great cause of inferior fruit is the condition of the bark, which is often overgrown with moss, hard and impenetrable, interfering materially with the *circulation* of the sap, and of course affecting the condition of the tree and fruit. Every spring, both old and young trees, the former most especially, should be scrubbed or washed with either a solution of one pound soda ash to one gallon of water, or a mixture of country soft soap and lye in equal proportions. We have applied this with very great advantage to some old trees, almost out of bearing, and the results in improved quantity and quality of fruit were surprising. The bark of fruit trees should be smooth, soft and pliable, so as to be easily indented with the nail.—All loose bark, and especially moss, being of course first scraped off with a dull edged spade or scraper. To expect fine and abundant fruit from an unhealthy tree, is as unreasonable as to look for a good day's work from a sick horse or ox.—*Rural Advertiser.*

SOWING GRAIN IN ORCHARDS.

We frequently see this folly along the line of our railroads, in our summer travel. Here we see a splendid crop of rye, and there a vigorous growth of oats or barley. Sometimes Indian corn is planted in a young orchard. We believe the practice to be a bad husbandry. A neighbor of ours has an apple orchard, set about ten years since. He took admirable care of it for several years, washing the trunks and larger limbs with strong soap suds, and manuring them abundantly. The orchard was a beautiful sight, and began to bear fruit. Three years ago he stocked it down with rye. The crop was a good one, but it proved disastrous to his orchard. It checked the growth of wood, and has not borne any fruit since. Similar facts are abundant in the experience of farmers. We cannot tell, perhaps, all the causes of this injury to fruit trees. Any grain is a heavy draft upon the land, and probably uses up the material the trees want to perfect their fruit. A grain crop shades the soil very much, also, and this must prove injurious. It is well to keep a young orchard under cultivation for some years, but the ground should only be cropped with roots, and abundantly manured. An orchard will pay us for our trouble, according to the capital and labor we expend upon its cultivation.—*Am. Agriculturist*.

Remarkable Destruction of Caterpillars in Orchards.

Those of our readers who either have fruit trees in their gardens, or who cultivate large orchards, will learn with much gratification that a certain instrumentality of destruction to caterpillars has been discovered. That coal oil will cause instant death to these pests has been proved beyond all doubt.—On Saturday last a letter was received at the *Leader* office, for publication, from one of our subscribers, an extensive farmer in the township of Clerk, county of Durham, stating the fact that, as a last resort, to endeavor to destroy the caterpillars (which had almost taken possession of the trees in his orchard,) he experimented with coal oil. Complete success attended the experiment. A brush of stiff feathers was made and a portion of the trees smeared with oil, in addition to placing a small quantity on the nests. Instant death ensued. The proprietor of the *Leader* at once tested the oil on his trees at Glen-grove Farm, Yonge street, where the caterpillars had collected in thousands, doing fearful damage. In a couple of hours one quart of it had cleared the orchard completely of caterpillars. The dead lay around in all directions. The effect on the oil on the pests seemed miraculous; there was no long delay to undergo, for one touch of the deadly substance to the nests spread desolation in all directions. This is, certainly, a cheap remedy, as well as a sure

one, and all our subscribers troubled with caterpillars should adopt it.—*Toronto Leader*.

CANNING FRUIT.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* seasonably reminds the readers of that journal that many fruits may be preserved with little or no sugar. He says:

Currants, gooseberries, peaches and pears require no sugar to preserve them. Raspberries and blackberries do not require more than four ounces of sugar to a pound of fruit, and strawberries but a little more. We have now the different kinds, nearly as fresh and good as when first gathered. Put them up the same way as if you used the usual quantity of sugar; that is, expel the cold air by heating the fruit after it is placed in the jars, by setting the jars in cold water, which heat to boiling. The jars we use are self-sealing, with zinc covers, which can be screwed on before the jar is removed from the hot water. We have never lost a jar of fruit put up in them.

EXPERIMENT WITH MANURE.—I. Pullen, of Hightstown, N. J., recently related to us an experiment showing the great superiority of surface manuring in autumn. One-third of a field in strips, received an autumn dressing of manure at the rate of about twelve or fifteen loads per acre. A second portion was manured in the spring with an equal quantity, and a third was dressed with guano, at the rate of 300 pounds per acre. The crop on the fall manured part was about "three times as good as on that manured in spring." The guano gave an intermediate result. The second year guano was applied over the whole, and the third year the land was left in grass. During both the second and third year, the growth on the autumn manured portion was decidedly the best; the second best was on that which was guanoed the first year; and the poorest of all on the spring-manured portion.—*Coun. Gentleman*.

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING MACHINES.—The popularity of this machine is best evinced by its enormous and constantly increasing sales, which surpass the combined sales of all others manufactured. Nor is their reputation less abroad. The HIGHEST PREMIUM was awarded for it at the *International Exhibition* in London, last year, and at the *Industrial Exhibition* at Paris. Those awards were in accordance with those universally made at the various exhibitions of this country. Indeed no human testimony could be stronger than that which has accorded this machine, the superiority over all others for family use and for general manufacturing purposes. The peculiarities of the Wheeler & Wilson instrument consist in their simplicity (being operated more easily than any others extant,) their perfect adaptability to all kinds of sewing, their extraordinary durability (it being almost impossible to get them out of repair), and their exquisite beauty as an article of furniture. W. MERRILL, AGT., 214 W. BALTIMORE ST., near CHARLES.

The Apiary.

FOR THE MARYLAND FARMER.

BEE CULTURE AND BEE HIVES.

Your July number contains an article on the subject of *bee culture* and *bee hives*, in which I think your "knowing" friend—the author—is laboring, in one or more particulars, under serious mistakes. He very properly objects to extensive speculation in *patent* hives, his principal objection however, that "there are too many kinds," seems to me to lack force, provided the *purchaser knows what kind of a hive is best adapted to their cultivation*—for it can certainly be no disadvantage to have a variety to choose from—and he may find, as I have, in using some of them, great assistance in acquiring that valuable piece of information. The kind of hive he recommends is very simple and easily made, and for those who do not understand bee culture, and *will not learn*, or, if they should learn, will not give it proper attention, it is probably one of the best they can use, with a slight modification, which I will here take the liberty of suggesting, viz.: that triangular strips half an inch thick be nailed from front to rear on the under side of the top of the brood chamber, in parallel distances of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from centre to centre—the bees will be likely to adopt these as guides and build a comb on each of them, thus producing straight regular combs, most suitable for rearing young. Next, to have an entrance for the bees on the front side of the hive, very near the top of the brood chamber, through which the bees may pass to and from the surplus honey receptacles, without having to *climb from the bottom to the top of the hive through a dense population* when heavily laden, and perhaps nearly exhausted by a long flight; *it saves them much time and fatigue*, and "tells" in the quantity of their product.

But the most pernicious error which your "knowing" friend has fallen into is the *closing of the passage holes from the brood chamber up into the surplus honey receptacles* "until the bottom of the hive (brood chamber) is filled with honey." He says, "In no case should the bees be permitted to make honey for the use of their owners until they have filled their own storehouse with a winters' supply."

Directly the reverse of this is certainly most conducive to their prosperity, as well as profit to their owner. Whenever all the cells in the brood chamber become filled with honey there must be an *end to breeding* in that hive, until they are again emptied, which the bees will not do for the purpose of accommodating the queen with empty cells in which to deposit eggs, and the consequence is that thence forward, during the balance of that season, the bees

generally amuse themselves by "hanging out," and inspiring their owner with wonder why they don't "swarm." Why swarm? when they have an abundance of honey, and there is no possibility, or probability, that they would have successors to take their places after they left the hive, or "swarmed," and enjoy the bounties of their labor—to desert them would be a waste which is any thing but characteristic of this industrious and frugal little insect. A populous colony, with a hive filled with combs, can fill an ordinary brood chamber with honey in about three weeks, if honey be abundant, and the weather favorable for gathering it. Good stocks or colonies are populous by the time the honey harvest arrives, say 1st May, and before the 1st of June, with favorable weather, (if confined to the brood chamber, and the brood cells not occupied by brood) will have nearly filled it with honey, and the rearing of young bees will of course have become circumscribed in the same proportion, (if occupied with brood, as soon as it hatches its place is immediately filled with honey.) Stocks in this condition seldom "swarm," but hang listlessly about their hive, manifesting great reluctance to working in the surplus honey receptacles. The utmost limit of the life of the "worker" bee will probably, in no case, exceed eight or nine months, and a large proportion of those upon which the labors of honey gathering devolve, do not live to one half that age; what then will be the condition of such a stock at the commencement of winter (when large numbers, and a sufficiency of empty cells to enable them to cluster in a *solid body*, are indispensable to the continuance of their existence through the rigors of winter?) First, a *very small number of bees*, (many of the old bees having already died, and no young ones having been reared to take their places;) Second, nearly all the combs filled with honey *between* (not *in*) which the bees are obliged to cluster, and *which they must keep warm or else perish of cold themselves*; this of course their animal heat is insufficient to do, and hence it so frequently occurs that bees die in winter in the midst of a superabundance of honey.

Now, take the same populous stock on May first, and let, nay, *induce* them, by every possible means, to store all the honey they will store, in the surplus receptacles, and thus keep the brood cells, as far as possible, at the disposal of the queen for rearing young, or depositing her eggs; during that month she will probably add from 30,000 to 40,000 workers to her stock, while those she already had will have stored probably 30 to 40 lbs. of surplus honey in the surplus honey receptacles. During the month of June, or, by the end of the honey harvest, this largely augmented population will probably, not only store as much more honey in the surplus honey

receptacles, but also supply themselves amply with "winter stores." There need be no serious apprehension about their not storing an ample supply where they want it for the winter, for as soon as they find their supplies abroad diminishing seriously, they will not only cease storing it in the surplus honey receptacles, but will also carry down from these receptacles, into the brood cells, all the uncapped honey in them—and sometimes even uncapped them for the purpose of abstracting it, in case their supply below is insufficient.

Again—so long as they find even a moderate supply of honey abroad, and have room for breeding, they will continue to rear young bees,—those which are reared late in the fall will survive until late in the spring, and as breeding cannot be rapidly carried on without a considerable population during the cold months of February, March and April, it is on that account (as well as that they may successfully protect themselves from cold in winter) of the utmost importance that stocks should be kept as strong as possible in numbers, in order to accomplish which, breeding late in summer, or in the fall, is indispensable. If stocks are populous at the commencement of the honey harvest, their product will be in accordance, but if not populous until the honey season has passed, you have an abundance of bees—to feed—and perhaps die, before the arrival of another honey season.

I have ever found much more difficulty in preventing the excessive storage of honey in the brood chamber, and inducing them to store it in the surplus receptacles, than the reverse, and not unfrequently at this season, and earlier, find it necessary to remove combs filled with honey from the brood chamber, and give them empty frames in which they build new combs, when the queen generally avails herself of the opportunity of depositing a liberal share of eggs in them, as fast as constructed, and thus increases the strength of her colony and supplies it with bees which will live to aid in building up her depleted stock the following spring.

Baltimore, August 1, 1864.

R. C.

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of woman: the foundation of political happiness is confidence in the integrity of man; the foundation of all happiness temporal and eternal, is reliance on the goodness of God.

R. SINCLAIR, JR & Co.—This old and popular firm notify the public that they are still manufacturing their celebrated Threshers and Horse Powers—also, Wheat Drills, Fans, Hay Presses, Clod Rollers, Lime Spreaders, &c.—Every thing in their line, of the best quality, can be obtained at fair prices. They also offer *Scully's Patent Portable Cider and Wine Mill*, which is equal to any now in use. The great demand for these mills is an evidence of their efficiency. See advertisements.

Spirits of Turpentine.

The very high price of spirits of turpentine, resulting from the war, is causing great efforts to be made for producing it at the North. There are very large numbers of pitch-pine trees in many portions of the Northern States, and we are having inquiries from correspondents of the proper mode of procuring turpentine from these trees.

The method of procuring pitch from the pine trees of North Carolina is to chop a box or pocket in the trunk of the tree. A long-bladed axe is used, the lower lip of the box is made horizontal with a deeper portion in the rear, and the upper surface is inclined; the box holding from one to three pints.—From one to three boxes are made in a tree according to its size. The boxes are cut during the winter, and the pitch begins to flow about the middle of March. A thin shaving of wood must be taken from the top of the box once in eight or ten days so as to expose a fresh surface. The sap is collected by means of ladles from the boxes as they become filled, and deposited in barrels.

The spirits of turpentine is obtained by distilling the pitch in stills similar to those used for distilling ardent spirits. The article may be purified by a second distillation with caustic soda or potash.

THE LARGEST ENGLISH FARM.—The largest farm in England consists of three thousand acres, and belongs to a man with the Yankee name of Samuel Jonas. In its cultivation he follows the "four course" system, the whole extent of the farm being divided into four great crops—750 acres to wheat, 750 to barley and oats, 750 to seeds, beans, peas, &c., and 750 to roots. His live stock is valued as follows: Sheep, \$35,000, horses \$15,000, bullocks \$12,000, pigs \$2500. The oil-cake and corn purchased annually amounts to \$20,000, and artificial fertilizers about \$8000. The entire cost of manure, in various forms used, annually costs about \$25,000. Sheep are claimed as the most profitable stock he keeps, from which are realized about \$20,000 a year. His income from the whole farm, though not stated, can be little less than \$50,000 per annum.

The season having arrived when farmers and planters will be called upon to select Threshers and Horse Powers for the present crop, Mr. JOHN MAYHER, 145 Pratt Street, Baltimore, as General Agent, offers Wheeler, Melick & Co's Patent Railway Power and Improved Thresher and Cleaner, which is a model of simplicity and compactness. He also offers Wheeler's Farm and Plantation Horse Power with Thresher and Cleaner. The machinery from these manufacturers have been long and favorably known to our agricultural public. Mr. Mayher can also accommodate the public with every description of Agricultural Implements and Machinery of his own and other manufacturers. Examine his advertisements.

Ladies Department.

The Old House Far Away.

The wild birds warble, the silvery rills
Sing cheerily round the spot,
And the peaceful shade of the purple hills
Falls dim on my mother's cot;
Its windows are small, and its thatch is low,
And its ancient walls are gray;
O, I see it! I love it! where'er I go—
The old house far away!

The little clock ticks on the parlor wall,
Recording the passing hours;
And the pet geranium grows rank and tall,
With its brilliant scarlet flowers;
And the old straw chair, so cozy and low,
Where mother sat knitting all day;
O, I see it! I love it! where'er I go—
That old house far away!

Dear mother! how plainly I see her now,
Reclining in that old arm chair,
With the sunset resting upon her brow,
That was once so smooth and fair;
With her crimped border white as snow,
And her once dark hair now gray;
O, I see it! I love it! where'er I go—
In that old house far away!

Not all the treasures the world affords,
The riches of land and sea,
Nor all the wealth of earth's proud lords,
Can blot from my memory
The roof that sheltered each dear, dear head,
And the humble floor of clay,
Where the feet I loved where wont to tread,
In the old house far away!

—Dublin Journal.

THE QUAKER MILL; OR, PEACE THROUGH CONQUEST.

A SKETCH OF REAL LIFE.

There is a section of the State of New York, not a hundred miles from the "Empire City" of the Union, known far and near as Quaker Hill. It derives its name from the fact that nearly all the inhabitants of that section are Quakers, that they boast of two large meeting houses, one for the "old school" and one for the "new." Finer farms, fatter horses and cattle, finer pigs and poultry, better gardens, cannot be found in any other portion of the State. But this is not the story which the reader wants.

Not an hours drive from the meeting houses dwelt two Quakers who had both seen the first half of a century of life, and who, though their farms joined each other, had through life been antagonistic on nearly every point. Joshua Prim, belonged to the old school church, and Elijah Snarl belonged to the new. In youth they had both courted the same maiden, and Elijah being rather the best looking,

and having an hundred more acres of land than Joshua, won the day, and carried the fair Susannah off in triumph. And as he more than once said, never meaning a *double entendre* as the ungodly might aver, he had been "*in a snarl*" ever since. For Joshua was revengeful, despite his drab cloth and broad-rimmed beaver. He had loved Susannah dearly; and while he vowed inwardly that he would never marry, he meant that Elijah should see as little of wedded *bliss* as possible.

So on the very night of their marriage, some ungodly boys—two wagon loads—were transported by some unknown person to the front of the dwelling of Elijah Snarl, and there for the whole night long they kept up a concert of horrible sounds produced by cracked trumpets, old cow bells, tin pans and discordant fiddles. In vain did Elijah desire them to depart in peace—go they would not, even after he had rolled out a barrel of his best cider as a peace offering. They kept the music up and him and his bride in misery until near day-light, and also kept the secret as to who it was that hired them thus to disturb his early matrimonial hours.

Elijah prided himself on his horses, and he invariably drove to meeting two magnificent switch-tailed bays for which he had refused a cool thousand dollars in his days of single wretchedness; for he had heard Susannah speak in praise of their beauty, and he determined to save that team for her especial pleasure. On the Sabbath after the day of his marriage he went early to the pasture to catch the horses and take them to the stable to be cleaned, ready for use when he wished to go to meeting.

Alas for him, some one, he could not tell who, had been there before him, and he found his two nags shorn like Samson of old, of their chief beauty. Where the long switch-tails had been, nothing now was to be seen but the two bony stumps from which the hair had grown. They had been shaved close in the night time. If Elijah did not swear he was better than all other men. He turned pale as the snowy table-cloth which Susannah delighted to spread for him. He looked over the field for tracks, for if he could have traced the man who had done him that grievous wrong, it is more than likely he would have laid off his Quaker coat and hat for a brief season, become worldly in nature and either have "lammed" the villain or got "lammed" himself.

But he was not Indian enough to find the tracks. So he went home to his Susannah and told her of his new trouble, and when he saw her weep he wept to keep her company. And he had that day to hitch his old plow horses to his handsome rockaway and go to meeting in a much humbler style than he was accustomed to.

He saw Joshua at their meeting-house, an unusual

thing, for he invariably attended the other one, down the street. And Joshua came up when he stopped his wagon before the meeting house and greeted him and Susannah in an unusually friendly manner.

"Why doth thee not drive thy handsome bays, Elijah?" he asked, looking rather hard at the old plough horses and their rough coats.

"Perhaps *thee* knows best why I don't drive the bays to-day!" said Elijah, as he tucked Susannah's arm within his own and darted into the meeting house.

There was most an unquakerly smile on the face of Joshua when he saw his friend Snarl disappear with his bride,

It would take more space than we could spare for one story to tell half the miseries that with each succeeding year came upon poor Elijah—half his accidents, losses, and mortifications of spirit and body. He had so many troubles, the originators of which he could never discover, that he became morose with everybody, almost unkind to poor Susannah, and as unhappy himself as man could be. His neighbors could not be neighborly when he was always in such an ugly humor, and he became very unpopular. When the rebellion broke out, because Joshua happened to be a strong Republican and an Administration man, Snarl to be contrary, announced on all occasions that he was a *Peace Democrat* and opposed to all wars in general and this war in particular, and the administration that kept it up.

This amounted to an open declaration between him and Joshua. Many were their arguments when they met; and more than once were the epithets, "nigger worshipper" and "copperhead" bandied between them. At times it seemed as if words would not suffice, but blows must come; but some "friend" would generally remind them of the "persuasion" which was suffering by their conduct, and they would cool down in time to save the honor of their drab cloth and broad beavers.

But at last an accident revealed to Elijah what his keenest endeavors had long failed to discover—revealed to him the persecutor who had for years made him miserable. He had been suffering all night with the torments of all torments, a raging tooth-ache. He had not slept,—could not sleep. It was an hour or two before dawn, and he was bathing his aching head with cold water from the spring near his door, when he heard the bars of his clover meadow near by let down gently. Thrice he had found cattle in that meadow in the morning, but never could find how they got in.

Now, in his shirt-sleeves and bare-footed, he started to find out who let down the bars. There was no moon, but the sky was cloudless and the stars gave considerable light.

Within less than a minute he was near the bars

and in time to see and hear a man driving cattle into his choicest meadow. His own cattle too, driven out of their pasture to be fed in *that* meadow. He did not wait to think of peace principles just then but rushing up to the man and collaring him shouted:

"I've got thee now—I've got thee in the act; scoundrel!"

"Let go my collar or harm will come to thee!" cried the man, who proved to be no other than Joshua Prim.

"Harm? As if thee had never done me harm before. I know now who hath been my persecutor for long years—who it was that ruined my switch tailed bays, who poisoned my turkeys and plucked the feathers from my geese. Joshua Prim, thou mean, low-lived nigger worshipper, the Spirit moveth me to thrash thee!"

"It is more than thee can do, thou traitorous copperhead!" said Joshua wrathfully. "If thee hadst not crossed my path in thy youth and cajoled and won away from me, Susannah, the maiden of my love, I would not have persecuted thee! Now I will persecute thee for all time, for I am single, and loveless and childless, and it is all thy fault."

"If thee says Susannah again I'll thrash thee!" cried Elijah, his wrath getting too hot to hold.

"Susannah!" shouted Joshua.

"Take off thy coat!" cried Elijah. "I will not strike thee while thou wearest that garment!"

Off went Joshua's coat in a moment.

"Now for Susannah and all my wrongs!" cried Elijah, and he "pitched in."

Oh, if Bill Poole, or John Morrissey, or both had been there, or "Awful Gardner," ere his days of piety came upon him, they would have seen a sight which they never would have forgotten. It was thump, pulling of hair, biting, scratching, a general tear-up altogether. Few were the words spoken, but much was the work done. Blood flowed from mouths and noses, hair came out by hands full, shirts had been, but where not now; paper rags which require washing were on hand. For full half an hour the "mill" went on, and both began to tire. But Elijah thinking of his Susannah, went in rather the strongest. He finely got Joshua floored, or rather "to grass" with his head wedged in between two logs, and there with his knees upon his breast he held him completely at his mercy.

"Now, Joshua," said he, hitting him a hearty smack in the face, "I am going to conquer a peace with thee."

"Let me up and I will yet whip thee," groaned Joshua.

"Nay, thou hast got into tribulation through thine own perverseness, and I must chastise thee even unto repentance," said Elijah, and *smack*,

down came his fist again into the face of Joshua.

"Oh! Oh! thee will kill me," groaned Joshua, struggling in vain to raise.

"Nay, I will not kill thee. But I will chastise thee until thee doth repent, and promise never again to wrong me, or to say Susannah with thy dirty mouth!" and again Elijah's heavy hand came down upon Joshua's battered "mug."

"I will never plague you more," groaned Joshua.

"Nor say Susannah?" queried Elijah, not forgetting to put in a gentle reminder on the damaged face.

"Nay, I will never say Susannah, nor look at her," groaned Josh.

"And will thee pay me damages for my meadows, destroyed, and my horses injured, and my geese plucked, in the sum of one thousand dollars lawful money?" asked Elijah, omitting the blow this time.

"Nay, I'll see thee, burned first!" cried Joshua, forgetting how utterly he was in the power of his enemy.

"Then I will take a thousand dollars worth more chastisement out of thy body!" said Elijah, beginning to pound poor Joshua with renewed vigor, for he was getting fresh wind again.

For a minute Joshua struggled vainly and bore his punishment, and then between a despairing groan and a sob he cried, "Enough."

"Does thee yield—will thee pay the thousand dollars?" asked Elijah.

"Yea," groaned Joshua.

"Then I will smite thee no more," said Elijah "and if thee will sit still until I drive the cattle out of my meadow, I will take thee home with me, and Susannah shall wash thy wounds and dress them, and we will live in peace hereafter, for I am sorry that I had to chastise thee so hard. But thou didst provoke me greatly."

"Yea, Elijah. I have deserved all I have got, and thou art good if thou dost take me to thy home, but I cannot well help it, for thou hast closed both of mine eyes and I cannot see whither to go."

"Fear not Joshua, I will lead thee; and hereafter we will drop politics and friends indeed."

And so it came to pass. And thus ended the Quaker "mill"

EDUCATIONAL.—Parents and Guardians desiring to place young ladies at a first class Institute, are referred to the advertisement of the Patapsco Female Institute, Robt. H. Archer, principal, located at Ellicott's Mills. It has for a number of years maintained a high reputation as a female Institute—it is so well known that it needs no recommendation from us. Its Faculty is composed of those most eminent in their profession. The Academic year commences September 15th next.

The prospect of the wine crop in the south of France is very flattering. The Burgundy vineyards are also doing well.

SPRING CONCERT.

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

There's a concert, a concert of gladness and glee,
The programme is rich, and the thickets are free,
In a grand, vaulted hall, where there's room and to spare,
With no gas light to eat up the oxygen there.
The musicians excel in their wonderful art,
They have compass of voice, and the gamut by heart;
They have traveled abroad in the winter recess,
And sang to vast crowds with unbounded success,
And now 'tis a favor and privilege rare
Their arrival to hail, and their melodies share.

These exquisite minstrels a fashion have set,
Which they hope you'll comply with and may not regret.
They don't keep late hours, for they've always been told
'Twould injure their voices and make them look old.
They invite you to come if you have a fine ear,
To the garden or grove, their rehearsals to hear;
Their chorus is full ere the sunbeam is born,
Their music the sweetest at breaking of morn—
It was learned at heaven's gate, with its rapturous lays,
And may teach you, perhaps, its own spirit of praise.

POVERTY.—Bulwer says that poverty is only an idea, in nine cases out of ten. Some men with ten thousand dollars a year suffer more for want of means than others with three hundred. The reason is, the richer man has artificial wants. His income is ten thousand, and by habit he spends twelve or fifteen thousand, and he suffers enough from being dunned for unpaid debts to kill a sensitive man. A man who earns a dollar a day and does not run in debt, is the happiest of the two. Very few people who have never been rich will believe this, but it is as true as God's word. There are people, of course, who are wealthy, and enjoy their wealth, but there are thousands upon thousands, with princely incomes, who never know a moment's peace, because they live above their means. There is really more happiness in the world among working people than among those who are called rich.

TREATMENT OF SUNSTROKE.—Warm weather and hot suns are now upon us, and we may expect more or less of *coup de soleil*, or sunstroke, to follow. A person whose uncovered head is exposed to the rays of a vertical sun is not unfrequently attacked with a sort of fit, which sometimes bears a semblance to apoplexy, but at other times is more an ordinary swoon. The proper remedy for an attack of this kind, during the primary fit, is to pour cold water over the head. This is the plan pursued by the natives of India, who are particularly exposed to the affection in question. It is said that sunstroke may be avoided by wearing a handkerchief or cloth soaked in cold water in one's hat while exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

DRILLING.—N. P. Chapman offers for sale Bickford & Huffman's celebrated Grain and Compost Drill, a machine well and favorably known to our farmers. Give him a call.

The Household.

Hints on Making Bread.

The amount of injury done to the tender stomachs of young children, invalids, sedentary persons, by eating bad bread day after day, from one year's end to another, must be enormous. A cook who cannot make good bread of every description, ought not to be allowed house-room for an hour; and that mother is criminally negligent, whatever may be her position, who does not teach her daughter to know what good bread is; and also how to make it. Alum is used to give whiteness, softness, and capacity for retaining moisture. Lime could be employed with equal effect, having the advantage of correcting any sourness in the bread or stomach; besides affording an ingredient for making the bones strong. Every housekeeper ought to know how to make three kinds of bread. The best yeast in the world is made of hops and cold water, nothing else. If lime water is used, it should be water saturated with lime, that is, holding as much lime as it can; if it has for a moment more, it goes to the bottom, as sugar in a tea-cup, when it can be made no sweeter. Use 19 lbs. of flour and 5 lbs. of saturated lime water made thus:—Put atoms of quick lime in water, stir until slack, let it settle and then pour off. Soda (an alkali made of sea salt) and saleratus (an alkali made of wood ashes) are used for the self-same purpose, to neutralize any sourness in the bread; one is in no respect better than the other; but as cooking soda is the cheapest, it is economy to prefer it.—*Dr. Hall.*

COFFEE.—"Thick as mud!" muttered the husband of a shiftless wife who never made good coffee. "How is it that at C.'s and B.'s we always get such delicious coffee. Clear as amber, dashed with real cream, it is a dish fit for the gods—but this!" and a wry mouth, made in expressive silence, finished the remark. His wife fretted and made some peevish reply. Had we known the parties, we could have told them how clear, good coffee may always be had with little trouble or expense, thus: To have good coffee, it is best to buy a bag (if your purse be large enough,) and roast it yourself, as required. When ground, beat it up well with a little cold water and white of egg (one egg will do for three times); pour boiling water on it; then boil ten minutes; after which again pour in about a cup of hot water, and stand aside to settle for five minutes. In this way, you can not fail to have good coffee.

GREEN CORN is best canned with tomatoes. First boil the corn, when cut from the cob, 45 minutes; salt to taste, mix with tomatoes, bring it to a hard boil and can as for fruit.

Wives and Carpets.

The Chicago Journal thus learnedly philosophises on these themes:

"In the selection of a carpet, you should always prefer one with small figures, for the two webs of which the fabric consists are always more closely interwoven than in carpetings where large figures are wrought.

"There is a good deal of true philosophy in this that will apply to matters widely different from the selection of carpets. A man commits a sad mistake when he selects a wife that cuts too large a swell on the carpet of life—in other words, makes too much display. The attractions fade, the web of life becomes worn out, weak, and all the gay figures that seemed so charming at first, disappear like summer flowers in autumn. Many a man has made flimsy linsey-woolsey of himself by striving to weave too large a figure, and is worn out, used up, like old carpets hanging on a fence, ere he has lived out half his allotted days of usefulness. Many a man wears out like a carpet that is never swept, by the dust of indulgence; like that carpet he needs shaking or whipping; he needs activity—something to think of, something to do.

"Look out, then, for large figures; and there are those now stowed away in the garret of the world, awaiting their final consignment to the cellar, who, had they practiced this bit of carpet philosophy, would to-day be firm and bright as Brussels fresh from the loom, and everybody exclaiming,—"It is wonderful how they do wear."

BED BUGS.—If your beds are infested with these abominable pests, you can get rid of them most effectually, by mixing a little quicksilver with the white of an egg, beating or whipping the two, until they are thoroughly incorporated, and then applying the mixture to the parts of the bedstead where the bugs conceal themselves, by means of a feather.

THERE is such a thing as an unsociable-looking room. Its atmosphere oppresses you like the presence of a cold, loveless, ungenial person. A "company" aspect is a horror. Things done up in *perpetual bag*, whether people or furniture, are an abomination. A stray cobweb, or a thumb-mark on a door, may, after all, be desirable. Darkened upholstery shops are not good models for private parlors, despite fashion. A few ginger-bread crumbs, or a little worn-out shoe, are not *always* unpleasant objects of contemplation.

ANTS.—A correspondent of the Horticulturist says it is only necessary to sprinkle some ground coffee on the ant-hills or on those places where the insects are frequently seen, and within fifteen minutes not one of them will be found. This is an old plan, but *never* fails.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

TO MAKE BLACKBERRY WINE.—There is no wine equal to blackberry wine when properly made, in flavor or for medicinal purposes, and all persons who can conveniently do so, should manufacture enough for their own use every year, as it is invaluable in sickness as a tonic, and nothing is a better remedy for bowel complaint: Measure your berries and bruise them; to every gallon add one quart of boiling water. Let the mixture stand twenty-four hours, stirring occasionally; then strain off the liquor into a cask; to every gallon, add two pounds of sugar; cork tight and let it stand till the following October, and you will have wine ready for use without further straining or boiling, that will make lips smack that never smacked under similar influences before.—*Maine Farmer.*

OUR RECIPE FOR STEWED BEEF.—Who knows how to stew beef as it ought to be stewed? How many cooks stew beef after the recipe herewith annexed? And how many people know that a piece of beef stewed, is better than cooked in any other way:—Take a piece of sirloin beef, about ten pounds; cut out the bone, and lard the beef and the tenderloin, which in cutting out the bone, has been separated from the other part. Put back the tenderloin and roll up the beef and tie it firmly; then stew gently till done. Serve it with the following sauce poured all over it: Put into a stew-pan the muscles of a knuckle of veal, some slices of ham or bacon, a cupfull of gravy, a spoonfull or two of strong vinegar, a bay leaf, a clove of garlic, a little thyme, one clove and a little salt; skin it, and when it has stewed a quarter of an hour, pass it through a sieve; then add sorrel, parsley and mush-rooms, all chopped fine, and whole capers; heat it again and pour it over the beef.

TO STEW THREE DOZEN CRABS.—As the crab season is at hand, we insert the following:—Scald the crabs, remove the outer shell, claws, and fuzzy part. Make a dressing of two large onions and a bunch of parsley, chopped fine; two teacups of sweet oil, two do. of flour, quarter of a peck of tomatoes, quarter of a pound of butter, and the juice of the crabs; season highly with Cayenne and salt. Cook these ingredients fifteen minutes, stirring them occasionally to prevent burning. The claws must be separated, cracked and cooked with them. Place them upon the ice and eat them cold. For a smaller number of crabs, diminish the ingredients for the dressing in proportion.

TO PREVENT MILK FROM TURNING SOUR.—To each quart of milk add fifteen grains of bicarbonate of soda. This addition will not affect the taste of the milk, and it promotes digestion.

ARROW ROOT BLANCMANGE.—Mix a heaped tablespoon of arrow root in a little water, boil one pint of milk, and flavor with a teaspoon of rose water and half a teaspoon of peach water. Pour it boiling on the arrow root. Boil again, stirring all the time.—*Ger. Telegraph.*

DISINFECTING AGENT.

Common copperas, which costs but three cents per pound, is perhaps one of the most efficient and economical disinfecting agents known. If two pounds of copperas be dissolved in ten quarts of boiling water, and the solution poured into gutters, sinks, cesspits, and other places where filth necessarily accumulates, its deodorising power will become speedily and convincingly apparent. I advise every housekeeper to provide a quantity of the article, and keep it constantly on hand, to be used when wanted.—The unpleasant odor emanating from the barnyard, and other places where manure is stored or kept during the hot weather ordinarily experienced during the vernal and summer months, is speedily neutralized by a slight sprinkling of this solution, as well as the extremely unpleasant smell engendered by decaying animal and vegetable substances in cellars and out-houses, and which it is frequently found difficult to prevent. Copperas is also an excellent manure. It acts as an absorbent and fixer of the gaseous volatile products of decomposition, and thus becomes an efficient medium of their transportation to the fields where they are required to give energy to vegetable life. And here permit me to mention a few other important facts in connection with this subject. Sulphuric acid—another cheap article, which, like copperas, may be obtained of the druggists in any desirable quantity, is also a most valuable article for this purpose. If used in a dilute state, and sprinkled over the floors of stables and other buildings where animals are kept, it will in a short time disinfect the same of all nauseous and unpleasant odors, and render the atmosphere perfectly pure and sweet. Like copperas, it is also a good manure. Another article of great efficiency is found by slacking quick lime to a thick, plastic, mush consistence, with water saturated with salt. This is what may be properly called domestic chloride of lime, being in every respect similar to, if not strictly identical with, the chloride of lime found at the shops, although it comes at less than one-twentieth the cost.—*Ger. Tel.*

♣—Merchants, Farmers and others, will soon be called upon to select their stoves for the coming cold season—for their benefit Biss & Co. of the Baltimore Stove House, offer every variety of Parlor and Cook Stoves, Ranges, Agricultural Caldron Furnaces, &c. Our friends cannot fail to find at this house every thing in that line to please, on reasonable terms. See advertisement.